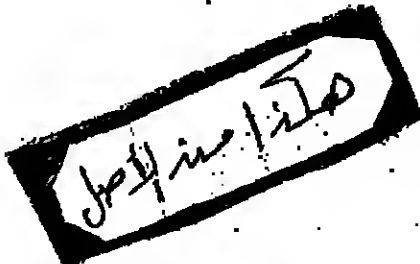


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# Jordan Times

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In Amman, represented by its regional director and all staff members, extends cordial congratulations to

His Majesty King Hussein for his recovery from the surgery he underwent. We implore God to protect him, bless him, and keep him in good health. We hope that soon he will return home safe and healthy to lead our dear Jordan to further progress and prosperity and to continue to support the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation.



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### Jordan wins gold in high jump

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Soud Haddad Sunday won the first gold medal for the Kingdom in the seventh Arab Games held in Damascus. Ms. Haddad, 21, won the gold medal in women's high jump after clearing 169 centimetres. She is Ghada Shu'a, and Hala Al-Saqqa won the silver and bronze medals respectively in the competition. Ms. Haddad, who studies physical education at Yarmouk University, is Jordan's champion in the high and high jump. On Saturday, Jordan defeated Egypt 62-60 in the basketball championship. Jordan, holder of the last championship title, will Monday meet Saudi Arabia in its second match.

### Missionaries expelled from Juba

ROME (AP) — Security forces in Sudan have expelled the remaining foreign Roman Catholic missionaries from the southern Sudanese city of Juba, the Comboni Order said. The Rev. Joseph Braggott, a spokesman for the order of missionaries, said security forces expelled the last five Comboni sisters and six Comboni fathers and brothers from the besieged city Saturday. Security forces, who put the missionaries on a flight to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, gave them a written order that specified the safety of the missionaries was the reason for the expulsions. Rev. Braggott said in a statement. He said he did not yet have a copy of the expulsion order.

### Free medicine draws long lines in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thousands of Israelis lined up Sunday at pharmacies run by the country's largest health service after health workers began dispensing medicine free to protest not getting their wages. "Is it really free?" asked Tami Nadab, 44, who was getting medication for his sick father at a pharmacy, one of 350 run by the run by the debt-ridden Kupat Holim health fund. "It sure is free," answered Lubak Shenkar, 36, who has worked 18 years for the Kupat Holim. "I hope this will put some pressure on them to pay us."

### Shepherd killed near Israeli army base

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Arab shepherd was killed and a young boy wounded Sunday when a discarded explosive device blew up near an army camp in the occupied West Bank, the army said. The shepherd, Mohammed Yunis Rashid, of the village of Lekia, apparently set off the blast by handling the device, an unexploded 10-year-old boy with Rashid was slightly wounded, the army said.

### 16 held in Algiers in plot against state

ALGIERS (R) — Security forces have arrested 16 men belonging to the armed Islamic movement and charged them with conspiracy against the state, Algerian radio said Sunday. The maximum penalty is death. More than 100 kilograms of gunpowder, 12 home-made bombs, weapons and ammunition were also seized. The radio did not say when the men were arrested. The group, taken before court in the Saharan desert town of Ouargla, was reportedly headed by Djedida Zakaria, a military prosecutor told the official news agency APS. Zakaria was jailed last May for 20 years after a trial in which 13 men were sentenced to death. They were found guilty of conspiracy and sabotage against the state after a raid last year on a border post in which three young guardsmen were killed and mutilated. No executions have been announced.

### Israeli woman kills herself with mask

TEL AVIV (R) — A 51-year-old Israeli woman committed suicide Saturday by choking herself with a gas mask, a police spokesman said. The woman, found dead in her home in the occupied Jerusalem area by relatives, left a note making clear she killed herself.

## Brotherhood, Shbeilat's lawyer and wife step up campaign to release him

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood Sunday demanded the release of Parliament members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash, recently arrested on charges of possessing explosives and forming an illegal organisation respectively.

In a statement distributed to the press, the Muslim Brotherhood also demanded that deputies be treated on equal footing with ministers. Serving or former ministers could be prosecuted only with a two-thirds majority "yes" vote in the Lower House.

"For the first time ever the Brotherhood called for amending the relevant articles of the Constitution pertaining to indictment of ministers and deputies."

"The Brotherhood deputies, pinned by the arrest of two of their colleagues, look forward to a constitutional amendment that guarantees equal treatment" of ministers and deputies, the statement said.

The movement asserted its belief that the security of the country and of people should be protected against any aggression from any quarter. "But, they (the Brotherhood) reject the use of this belief as an umbrella to violate people's freedoms."

The statement said the Brotherhood was offended to hear that Deputy Shbeilat was transported from the prison to the court in a prison van with his

hands in cuffs.

Mr. Shbeilat has been at odds with the Brotherhood over priorities in the past three years he used the House floor to lash at his fellow Islamists, accusing them of going after power and, urging them to amend the Constitution.

The Brotherhood's statement urged the authorities to fairly treat the two deputies and called on the media to be fair and accurate in reporting on the case.

Following is the text of the statement:

"The Muslim Brotherhood was surprised, as were most members of the public, by the arrest of deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash, who were arrested shortly after the termination of the Parliament's extraordinary session (Aug. 26) by virtue of a Royal Decree."

"The arrest has prompted observers to feel that something had been arranged in advance but was put off until the adjournment of the extraordinary session so that there would be no need for procedures to lift the parliamentary immunity from the two deputies before their arrest."

"The arrest of two deputies came close on the heels of a parliamentary probe into financial and administrative corruption. This led many people to link the debates (over corruption) with the arrest. Should this be the case it would mean that we are facing a very dangerous situation

making it extremely difficult for Parliament to tackle corruption cases in the future."

"The Muslim Brotherhood deplores in Parliament are surprised at the manner in which the local media dealt with this case. The media has blown the question out of all proportions and acted in a manner that showed a clear bias against the two deputies. The Muslim Brotherhood is wondering who could benefit from this situation and from this media campaign. Does this campaign serve the democratic process in Jordan, or the national unity and our drive to achieve comprehensive development which we aspire to?"

"The Muslim Brotherhood stresses... the legal principle that everybody remains innocent until proven guilty. Therefore the bloc demands that the two deputies enjoy fair trial and that they be released on bail."

"The Muslim Brotherhood does not consider a member of Parliament as an ordinary person who could be easily arrested. Even if immunity has been lifted he still enjoys popular immunity invested in him by the people who elected him to Parliament. Immunity should only be lifted once the fair judiciary establishes that he is not worthy of immunity."

"Pained at the arrest of their

(Continued on page 3)



Laith Shbeilat

### Deputy's wife says he did not believe in violence

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The wife of detained Deputy Laith Shbeilat said Sunday that she was sure of her husband's innocence and that he was peaceful and nonviolent by nature.

Rima Shbeilat, speaking at a press conference, one day after Mr. Shbeilat was charged with transport and possession of explosives, said that her husband's "ways and principles are peaceful and institutional" and "his personality rejects violence as a means of behaviour."

Mrs. Shbeilat, who read from a

(Continued on page 3)

## UNEP warns of toxic dumping in Somalia

NAIROBI (AP) — The U.N. environment chief says some Italian companies plan to profit from the chaos in Somalia by illegally dumping toxic wastes there.

Meanwhile, U.S. air force cargo planes delivered emergency food Sunday in eastern Kenya and to two villages in Somalia, where officials say the famine threatening millions is worsening.

The comments by Mustafa Tolba, head of the Nairobi-based U.N. Environmental Programme (UNEP) were reported Sunday in the English-language Sunday Nation newspaper, and confirmed by an aide. Mr. Tolba spoke Friday at the International Centre

(Continued on page 3)

Somalis return to farms with hopes, page 2

U.N. effort is 'last chance,' page 4



A child holds its mother at a feeding centre at Badera, Somalia, as they await the arrival of food supplies.

## Iraq is withholding names of nuclear suppliers — inspector

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq still refuses to reveal foreign suppliers to its nuclear weapons programme, a serious "stumbling block" to full compliance with Security Council resolutions, the leader of a U.N. inspection team said Sunday.

The team carried out its final inspection Sunday after a week inside Iraq. Iraqi treatment of the team — the first since the allied no-fly zone was imposed on southern Iraq Aug. 27 — was considered a test of Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations.

Team leader Maurizio Zifferero, speaking on the eve of the team's departure, said cooperation had been good. He also said progress was being made in — ranging long-term monitoring to ensure that Iraq never again tries to develop a nuclear bomb. "The atmosphere is very positive and constructive on both sides," said Mr. Zifferero, an Italian who works for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "But I have not received any information (on procurement) and I certainly will continue to press for it."

"I hope they understand it is in their best interest to provide this information because this is one of the remaining stumbling blocks," he said. "A major one."

The IAEA, a U.N. agency, is part of the inspection programme to uncover and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, one of the terms of the Security Council resolutions ending the Gulf war.

The agency insists that Iraq provide a list of imports and foreign suppliers before it can give Iraq a clean bill of health on its weapons programmes.

Mr. Zifferero said the procurement information was very important "because it gives us a possibility of checking what they have told us, and they realise this."

The Iraqis have maintained

that they have a moral commitment to businesses Baghdad has dealt with not to disclose those dealings. They also say the information would expose scientists and others who worked on Iraq's nuclear research, which they say has occurred in other cases.

As Mr. Zifferero spoke, members of his team made a final inspection at Al Shergat, a nuclear development site 300 kilometres north of Baghdad. The team was taking environmental samples, Mr. Zifferero said, but he did not elaborate.

Mr. Zifferero commented to reporters after a day of technical meetings with Iraqi officials about long-term monitoring. Sessions were continuing Sunday night.

A chemical weapons team, meanwhile, returned from checking

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq doubles monthly rations, page 2

## Israel plans to spend \$1 billion on settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — A member of the ruling coalition in Israel said Sunday the 1993 budget allocated \$1 billion to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Deputy Housing Minister Ran Cohen of the Meretz alliance gave the figure and said his group, the second largest in government after the Labour Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, opposed the proposal.

"There are 2.5 billion shekels (\$1 billion) committed to buying nearly 11,000 units in the occupied territories and for infrastructure, roads, lighting," he told Reuters.

"According to this budget, there is a slight change and not an absolute halt to settlement in the occupied territories. In my opinion it is not enough," he added.

Meretz favours a Palestinian state in the occupied territories — a policy opposed by Labour.

Spending on settlements is difficult to assess, because the finance and housing ministries refuse to say how the housing budget is shared between Israel and the occupied territories.

No comparative figure is available for this year but Peace Now, the largest peace movement, said the figure for 1991 was 2.5 billion shekels (\$1.1 billion at the 1991 exchange rate).

Finance Minister Abraham Shohat submitted a 97.6-billion shekel (\$40.6-billion) draft budget to cabinet debate Sunday. It must pass parliament by Dec. 31 in time for the start of the financial year on Jan. 1.

Critics have accused Mr. Rabin

of breaking his promise to make drastic cuts in spending on settlements, which boomed under his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, and reorder priorities to reduce unemployment from 11 per cent.

Mr. Cohen said the money for Jewish settlements should be poured into investments that would create jobs.

"The budget proposal is nearly a copy of budget proposals presented by the Likud governments," he added.

Mr. Shamir's Likud lavished money on settlements in the hope of blocking any land-for-peace deal with the Arabs.

Mr. Rabin says he has frozen all new settlements in the occupied territories — about 6,000 planned units — but, citing costly legal obstacles, is allowing builders to complete about 11,000 units already under construction.

Because of the policy change U.S. President George Bush has offered to support Mr. Rabin's request that the United States guarantee loans to Israel worth \$10 billion.

Mr. Bush withheld the loan guarantees from Likud because of Mr. Shamir's settlements policy.

Mr. Shohat's proposal slashes the housing budget for 1993 to 7.2 billion shekels (\$3 billion), a third less than in 1992.

Treasury officials conceded the change in priorities was barely perceptible but said they had not had time to prepare the budget. The proposal forecasts unemployment will drop slightly from 11.1 per cent in 1992 to 10.7 per cent in 1993.

## Mediators give deadline for Serbs on heavy arms

GENEVA (AP) — Peace negotiators demanded Sunday that Serb forces besieging four key cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina place all their heavy guns under U.N. supervision within a week.

The statement was released by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, who chair the conference on peace for the former Yugoslavia. It said they expect Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to place all his forces' heavy weapons around Sarajevo, Bihac, Jajce and Gorazde under supervision of U.N. military observers by midday Sept. 12.

"The Serbs' huge superiority in weapons and their willingness to use them against civilian targets is seen as one of the principal reasons for the collapse of some 40 earlier Bosnian ceasefires."

The agreement would apply only to the guns held by Serbian forces in the vicinity of the four cities, and not at other locations throughout the war-torn republic, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhardt said.

The weapons would include tanks, multiple rocket launchers, 82-millimetre mortars and field guns of 100-millimetre calibre or more.

More than 8,000 people have died — some estimates say up to 35,000 — in Bosnia's civil war, which began after Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia on Feb. 29 (see page 18).

## Non-aligned summit ends with assertion movement still relevant

JAKARTA (Agencies) — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ended its first summit of a century Sunday after finally reaching agreement on how to respond to the bloodshed in Bosnia, one of the legacies of communism's European demise.

Muslim nations won a lengthy battle to have members condemn Serbs by name for atrocities in the former Yugoslav republic despite bitter protests from Belgrade and objections from African states.

Iraq was the other big loser of the six-day summit, failing to stir public support for its campaign against the "no-fly" zone and U.N. sanctions.

The closing session of the 108-member movement, whose members and observer nations represent two-thirds of the world's people, had to be postponed five hours while delegates tried to settle the dispute on Bosnia.

"I'd like to believe that this summit has dispelled whatever

lingering doubts there may be that there is no relevance of the world today," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said at the end of the six-day meeting.

The movement was founded in 1961 to act as a counterweight to the two superpowers. Host Indonesia had tried to steer it away from the confrontation with the West that marked much of its 31 years and into improving the economic lot of its mostly developing members.

"The fate and fortunes of the north and south are inextricably intertwined," Indonesian President Suharto told the closing session.

"Sustained economic development in the North is not possible in the absence of stability and development in the South. The countries of the South cannot achieve their development goals without the conducive global environment that the policies of the North should provide."

"It therefore makes good economic sense for both sides to sit down and discuss how they are to manage the massive changes in international relations in the decades ahead," he said.

A "Jakarta Message" produced by the summit urges reforms to democratise the United Nations. It commits itself to respect human rights but rejects attempts to impose Western concepts on rights, particularly when tied to aid — an especially sore point.

It calls for the West's help in debt relief, fairer commodity prices and an improved international trade structure.

Member countries could also help themselves more by cooperating in food production, population control, trade and investment. There should be a "new global partnership" to balance the needs of environment and development.

(Continued on page 3)

## Arabs lost \$620b in Gulf war

ABU DHABI (AP) — Arab states sustained a loss of \$620 billion because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and subsequent Gulf war, according to a draft analysis released Sunday.

The summary of the Arab economic report for 1992 was made available at an Arab financial gathering here.

The report is the leading economic reference for the Arab World and is prepared jointly by the Arab League, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

It incorporates data for all 21 members of the Arab League, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The aggregate loss of \$620 billion took into account infrastructure damage set-backs to economic development and defence outlays, the report said.

Destruction of infrastructure — which would include offices, factories, roads and telecommunications systems — translated into a loss of \$160 billion for Kuwait and \$190 billion for Iraq, the report said.

It said development was sharply set back in Kuwait and Iraq and, to a lesser degree, in some neighbouring countries. It estimated the total at \$185 billion, but gave no breakdown.

The report put Arab government spending for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm at \$84 billion.

It gave no breakdown, but the bulk of the defence expenses were paid by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The report also blamed the Gulf crisis for a sharp slowdown in growth in the Arab World.

The Arab economy grew an average of three per cent a year from 1986-88, and five per cent in 1989. But gross national product, which is a measure of the value of all goods and services produced, contracted 1.2 per cent in 1990 and seven per cent in 1991, the report said.

The report said inflation rates in the Arab countries reached 20 per cent in 1991.

(Continued on page 3)

AMF urges compliance with BIS requirements, page 9

## Muslims flock to vote as Lebanon completes first polls in 20 years

AJTA JEBEL, Lebanon (Agencies) — Voters crowded polling stations amid tight security in South Lebanon Sunday during the final stage of the country's first parliamentary elections in 20 years.

Officials said more than 50 per cent of 500,000 eligible voters cast ballots in the southern cities of Sidon, Tyre and Nabatiyeh and surrounding villages, where 131 candidates vied for 23 seats.

It was the heaviest turnout in the three-tier elections, which were boycotted by right-wing Christians of the Maronite Catholic sect who have dominated power since Lebanon's independence from France in 1943.

Two previous rounds of elections were held Aug. 23 and Aug. 30 in northern and central regions for the 128-seat parliament, which will be half-Christian and half-Muslim. Turnout averaged less than 30 per cent.

Muslim fundamentalists have won 14 seats and were expected to capture four more Sunday. Officials said ballot counting would take more than 24 hours. Police said they had no reports

of violence from the 10 hours of balloting that began at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) despite initial fears that supporters of moderates and anti-Israel factions would clash.

Only four election-linked deaths were reported in the two previous rounds, a low figure in a country recuperating from a civil war that claimed 150,000 lives.

Parliamentary elections were last held in 1972. The 15-year civil war that erupted in 1975 prevented any nation-wide vote.

An Israeli-backed militia stopped anyone leaving Israel's "security zone" in the south, foiling government hopes that its residents would vote in U.N.-held territory.

Officials reported a high turnout in Sidon, Nabatiyeh and Tyre where thousands of Lebanese soldiers in tanks and armoured troop carriers patrolled roads, guarded polling stations and searched cars and voters for arms.

The army said it was the tightest security in the south for years. Some 2,500 policemen were also deployed across the south.

The pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God),

bolstered by a landslide victory in eastern Lebanon two weeks ago and strong showing in Beirut last Sunday, appeared the best organised party.

"The battle is between the resistance and Israel," said a poster on a bus ferrying voters to the village of Tibnine for Hizbollah, which has formed a strong coalition including its former rivals from the secular Amal movement.

"Lebanon has two enemies: Traditional leaders and Israel," said an Amal banner on a car with a loudspeaker urging voters to vote to end the hold by feudal chieftains on Lebanese politics.

"We want representatives who were with us during the hard times," said Shiite voter Mohammed Khalil, 26. "Not the same representatives we hear from or see only once every 20 years."

Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh said the elections in the south were being held in a "very quiet and normal atmosphere."

But Christian Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir,

(Continued on page 3)



## Thousands dying in Sudan's forgotten war

By Dalia Baligh  
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM — International aid is pouring into Somalia after pictures of war and famine there captured world attention.

A similar war has been ravaging southern Sudan for nine years, forgotten but for brief bursts of international attention. The fighting and war-induced famine there have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

"My own perspective is that the world has not forgotten. They never knew about this silent war. The world is interested about Sarajevo and Mogadishu, but Sudan is not on the agenda," said Reverend Roger Schrock of the New Sudan Council of Churches, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Sudan's estimated 28 million people are among the world's poorest. U.N. relief began to reach the country in 1991 when hunger threatened more than one-third of the population.

At the root of the famine is a civil war that has intensified under the three-year-old Islamic military government of Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

Persecution by the government of the south has redoubled under his watch, fanning the flames of the nine-year-old southern rebellion.

The government seems intent on keeping out any witnesses who might report on the atrocities. Access to trouble spots for relief organizations and reporters has been curtailed.

A government offensive since last February against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has forced hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes. They join more than half of the south's six million people who already have fled the fighting and the food shortages.

They arrive in northern states exhausted and destitute, suffering acute malnutrition and sickness. In one camp of 7,000 in Al Mairam, 500 kilometres south of Khartoum, 20 people die daily. In another larger camp nearby, 5,000 have died since May. They are totally dependent on international relief food.

"Somalia is a full-blown famine now," said Bruce Mencer, Sudan programme director at World Vision, an international relief agency based in Nairobi. "The people in south Sudan are okay now, but if the pipeline of food is cut, they will immediately go into a crisis situation because there are no stocks at all."

Relief workers in Khartoum, who spoke on condition they not be named, said thousands are dying already, but the tragedy was being ignored because the regime had succeeded in keeping it off the world's television screens.

Food donated by the international community is arriving in Sudan, but because of security problems, getting it to the hungry people is very difficult. Fighting has repeatedly interrupted a U.N. airlift to the southern provincial capital, Juba, whose population relies solely on airlifted food for survival.

The focus has most recently turned to the estimated one million African Christian and animist residents of the Nuba mountains in south central Sudan. The government has cracked down on them for supporting the SPLA and the rebels have kidnapped leaders who refused to cooperate with them.

"We hear second hand that 50 per cent of the population in the Nuba mountains have moved, either voluntarily or non-voluntarily," Mr. Schrock said. "Anyone who is non-Muslim is a second-class citizen."

In 1990, the independent Africa Watch Human Rights

Organisation accused the government of trying to destroy the Nubans as an independent people. Tribesmen, the group said, were massacred, subject to arbitrary arrests, and stripped of their land, Africa Watch said.

Witness reports filtering back to Khartoum talk of forced movement of Nubans in military trucks by night since June. They speak of between 17,000 to 45,000 Nubans being moved to "peace camps" in northern Kordofan where they are forced to work as cheap labour in agricultural farms.

According to one witness account, many Nubans arrive at the camps dead or as living skeletons. Some of the men were more than two metres tall and weigh no more than 30 kilograms.

The government denies it is carrying out an orchestrated campaign against the Nubans. "There are military operations in the area but it is not a movement by the government to move the Nubans," Information Minister Suliman Mohammad Suliman told the Associated Press.

Colonel Suliman emphatically denied that the government persecuted anyone on the basis of religion or ethnic background and said aid was given to all the needy.

Mr. Schrock of the New Sudan Council of Churches said the government recently expelled 10 foreign clergymen from Juba and is harassing others. Mr. Schrock also said the Islamic government was using food to convert Christians and animists.

When the government recently took over Kapoeta from the rebels, all young men were told they had to be circumcised and declare they are Muslims before they were given food, he said. And in another southern provincial capital, Malakal, newly arrived refugees are told they cannot get food until they become Muslim, he said.

## Gulf states to consult Egypt, Syria

DUBAI (R) — Foreign ministers of the six Gulf Arab oil states meet Monday to prepare for talks two days later with Egypt and Syria on how to try to breathe new life into a troubled regional security pact.

The ministers are from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — and their meeting will be in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah.

The dominant question is how to accommodate Egypt and Syria, the two major Arab allies in the war for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi rule early last year, Gulf diplomats said.

A month after Iraqi troops were expelled from Kuwait in February last year, the GCC states and their two Arab allies signed an agreement known as the "Damascus Declaration," hailed at the time as a model for future Arab cooperation.

It was meant to ally the two populous, poor but militarily powerful Arab states with the wealthy but thinly populated nations of the Gulf.

The GCC insists the pact is alive and well but none of its major provisions have been implemented.

Kuwait, which was supposed to host the vanguard of the regional security force composed mainly of Egyptian and Syrian troops, said it would make its own bilateral arrangements with allies.

The only arrangements it has made so far have been with Western powers like the United States and Britain.

Iran, the GCC's powerful and touchy neighbour across the Gulf, objected strongly to Arab states from outside the Gulf contributing to the defence of the region.

Several billion dollars in aid, pledged for the troubled economies of Egypt and Syria, have yet to materialise.

Egypt in particular has seen the failure to implement the pact as a slap in the face for those Arabs who stood solidly behind Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion, sending their sons to fight alongside the Gulf allies and risking a backlash of Islamic fundamentalism and Arab nationalism.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa toured the Gulf earlier this year to reactivate the pact but a meeting of the foreign ministers of the eight states was postponed more than once in the absence of a face-saving formula, diplomats said.

Officials say the meeting will now take place as planned in the Qatari capital Doha Wednesday, but some diplomats said doubts will persist until the GCC foreign ministers confirm it after their own meeting in Jeddah.

The diplomats said one incentive for the Gulf states is to obtain renewed support from Egypt and Syria at a time of increased tension with Iran over its virtual annexation of the island of Abu Musa, which it controls jointly with the UAE.

Syria, Iran's closest Arab friend, may be able to play a role in the dispute which erupted in April when Iran, citing security concerns, started to bar from the island foreign workers who worked for the UAE government.

But one diplomat said one complication may be differences over the no-fly zone the West has imposed in southern Iraq.

Among the GCC states, only Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have publicly endorsed the U.S. decision to ban Iraqi flights south of the 32nd Parallel.

## Iraq doubles monthly rations in bid to fight off shortages in market

BAGHDAD (AP) — As it tries to shore up public support in its latest confrontation with the West, the Iraqi government says it will double the public's rations of flour, sugar, rice, and other commodities this month.

The move, announced this week, was said to be intended to make up for shortages in public markets.

The government has been complaining bitterly about the ban on Iraqi warplanes in the south, imposed Aug. 27 by Western governments saying they are Shiite Muslim rebels.

Iraq contends the ban is part of an attempt to dismember the country along ethnic and sectarian lines.

There have been no reports of Iraq's attempting to challenge the ban militarily.

"I can't tell if secret police are arresting people or those kind of things," navy commander Arthur N. Langston told reporters about the USS Independence in the Gulf.

"But I certainly can tell... whether large-scale operations are going on against the Shiites and we have not seen any of that," he said.

U.N. sanctions, imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, bar most imports to Iraq. While the country is allowed to import food and humanitarian supplies, it has rejected conditions under which it could sell its oil to pay for them.

It was unclear where the extra food would come from — stockpiles, or foreign buying with money from Baghdad's reported billions of dollars in clandestine assets. Iraq says it is desperately short of many items.

Iraqis interviewed by the Associated Press said local officials told them they will receive their October rations early because of severe shortages.

Government-subsidised rations are intended to provide more than half of a family's food needs, with the rest to be obtained in the private market.

However, price increases of as much as 2000 per cent since the war have put basic commodities out of reach to all but the rich.

The problem was compounded last month after imports from Jordan, Iraq's main link to the outside world, dropped sharply.

Traders blamed a panic caused by reports that Iraq had 42 mercenaries executed in July on charges of hoarding and profiteering.

Alli Musa, the Trade Ministry official in charge of domestic trade, told the Baghdad magazine Alif-Baa Wednesday that the government would be doubling rations.

"The food must be distributed to meet the needs of families until the local market is stabilised," Mr. Musa said, according to the magazine.

Western intelligence officials said in July that Iraq was using its hidden wealth to sustain its current regime. Iraq was estimated to have up to \$30 billion at its disposal when the Gulf war ended in February 1991, some in secret bank accounts in Europe.

Iraq has said repeatedly that the sanctions are causing widespread malnutrition and health problems, especially for children.

Minister of Health Omid Medhat Mubarak said 85,943 Iraqis — more than one-third of them young children — died last year from disease and hunger, according to an Iraqi News Agency report. It quoted Mr. Medhat as blaming the shortages on the U.N. sanctions.

At the United Nations in New York, sources Friday said Iraq has warned the U.N. Security Council that Iranian "saboteurs" may fire on Western aircraft patrolling the south to provoke a major confrontation.

The Iraqis said such an Iranian attack would be intended to provoke the British, French and Americans into firing on Iraqi targets. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

The sources — from a Western and an Arab country — said Iraq's chargé d'affaires, Samir Al-Nima, delivered the warning earlier this week to the president of the Security Council. Mr. Nima declined to confirm or deny the report.

Tehran has long supported and armed Iraqi Shiites.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### King Hassan warns U.S. about Iraq policy

WASHINGTON (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco issued the strongest public warning yet by an Arab leader about Western policy towards Iraq, cautioning that the U.S.-led ban on Iraqi flights over the south of the country could lead to its dismemberment, the Washington Post reported Sunday. The Moroccan monarch deplored President Saddam Hussein's continuing refusal to abide by all U.N. resolutions. But King Hassan said escalation of Western military pressure against Iraq "risks turning this exclusion zone into an explosion zone, (that) in the long run will be harmful to the interests of the West and the Arab World," the paper reported. King Hassan's warning echoes private misgivings reportedly shared by several U.S. allies in the Arab World who are worried about the possible breakup of a key Arab power. "If we continue to cut off links between the north and south of Iraq, we will divide not only rich from poor but worse a religious split between Sunnis and Shiites, King Hassan said in an interview with the paper at his sea-coast palace in Skhirat, 30 kilometres south of the Moroccan capital Rabat. "And later we will find it very difficult to glue that mosaic back together," the newspaper quoted the king as saying.

### Police detain over 3,000 in Assiut

CAIRO (AP) — A 10-day police crackdown on the southern province of Assiut, a hotbed of Islamic extremism, has led to the arrest of more than 3,000 people, and the capture of 102 guns, a police officer said Saturday. The officer said those arrested included 23 "dangerous" criminals and 3,594 at large for various misdemeanours and for draft evasion. He said none of them were Islamic extremists. The officer, who could not be named according to government regulations, said 102 guns, including 47 sub-machine guns, were seized in the 10-day raid which ended Saturday. In a related development, the officer reported the death of one of two policemen wounded Friday when a Muslim extremist threw homemade bombs at a police station in the Assiut town of Dairut. Both policemen were wounded by flying shrapnel. The second policeman remains in serious condition. The officer said the identity of the Islamic extremist who threw the bombs has been established and police are looking for him. Sectarian related violence in Dairut and other parts of Assiut has this year claimed 59 lives, among them Muslim extremists, Christians and policemen.

### Colombo to visit Mogadishu

ROME (R) — Italy announced Sunday that Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo would fly to Mogadishu Monday in an attempt to help the United Nations end fighting between Somalia's warring factions. "Colombo, in close cooperation with U.N. initiatives, plans preliminary exploratory talks with representatives of all the most important ethnic and political groups in the country," the foreign ministry said in a statement. It said Mr. Colombo would focus on the two rival groups in Mogadishu "with the aim of creating conditions for renewed dialogue and a real process of national reconciliation." As a first step the intention is to study with all the parties what guarantees can be made so that humanitarian aid Italy is sending can be distributed to the zones most in need. The two-day visit follows a meeting last week between Mr. Colombo and Mohammad Sahnoun, the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy to Somalia who has been coordinating efforts to distribute aid to the millions facing starvation in the war-ravaged country. Italy ruled southern Somalia for half a century and then administered half of the country under a U.N. mandate until independence in 1960.

### China's Qian to visit Israel this month

PEKING (R) — Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will play an official visit to Israel from Sept. 15 to 17, the first senior Chinese leader to travel to the Jewish state since diplomatic ties were established this year. The Foreign Ministry, in a statement released by the official Xinhua news agency Sunday, said Mr. Qian would visit at the invitation of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. China and Israel set up full diplomatic relations in January during a visit to Peking by then-Foreign Minister David Levi. The accord was a diplomatic breakthrough for Israel, giving it full official relations with all five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Diplomats said that despite China's long support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Peking had decided to recognise Israel because it felt it should be a major player in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Qian's visit is expected to focus on bilateral issues as well as the situation in the Middle East, according to Peking-based diplomats.

### Algeria, Belgian firm sign gas contract

ALGERIA (AP) — Algeria's state-owned hydrocarbon enterprise Sonatrach has awarded a contract to modernise natural gas liquefaction facilities to the Belgian firm Tractebel. The contract, which concerns technical control on four sites under renovation, was announced Saturday by Sonatrach. The financial terms were not disclosed. Construction contracts on the sites — three at Arzew and one at Skikda — have been awarded to the U.S. firms Bechtel International Ltd. and N.W. Kellogg, and the French firm Sofregaz. Sonatrach has estimated that modernisation of these complexes, to be finished by 1995, will cost \$1.5 billion. The renovation will boost Algeria's natural gas capacity by 15 per cent to some 32 billion cubic metres, according to Sonatrach's estimates. Algeria hopes to export 65 to 70 billion cubic metres of gas to Europe annually by the year 2000.

### At least 43 killed in Kurdish clashes

ANKARA (AP) — At least 43 people, including Kurdish guerrillas and civilians, were killed Saturday in three separate incidents related with the Kurdish insurgency in eastern Turkey. The semi-official Anadolu news agency quoted the governor of the eastern Agri province as saying that at least 20 Turkish Kurdish guerrillas were killed following fierce fighting with a group of 40 rebels at Mount Ararat. Governor Ismet Metin told Anatolia that the security forces could not have the actual count of the death toll for the guerrillas because they took the bodies of their comrades with them while escaping. Security forces killed 16 Kurdish guerrillas in another clash in the eastern Ardahan province, Anatolia said. Four soldiers were wounded in the fighting, it added. The guerrillas are from the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for self-rule mainly in the southeastern part of the country since 1984. They have been very active lately. Also Saturday, a group of guerrillas cut a main highway in the southeastern province of Bingol and shot seven travellers dead after ordering them to get out of the vehicles, Anatolia reported. More than 4,500 people, including guerrillas, civilians and soldiers, have died since the fighting started eight years ago.

### Four to hang publicly in Afghanistan

KABUL (R) — Four people convicted by special courts of robbery and murder are to be hanged publicly in a Kabul park, an official of Afghanistan's Islamic government said on Sunday. General Fazl, director of national security, said the four were thieves, looters and murderers and would be executed under Islamic law as part of the government's drive to bring law and order to Kabul. "We have to set an example," he said. A crude wooden gallows with four blue rope nooses has been erected in Zangar Park in the centre of the capital. The hangings would take place soon, Gen. Fazl said. He did not give an exact time and did not identify the condemned. The public executions would be the first in Kabul by the Mujahadeen government, which took power from the formerly communist rulers in April.

### Iran reports earthquake in Khorasan

NICOSIA (AP) — A strong earthquake rocked the city of Tabas on Sunday in the quake-prone province of Khorasan, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. It said information was not immediately available on damage or casualties. Tabas is about 600 kilometres southeast of Tehran. IRNA said the geophysics institute of Tehran University said the quake, which occurred at 1:30 p.m. (0843 GMT), registered 5.5 on the Richter scale. The quake of that magnitude can cause severe damage. The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on seismographs.

## Somalis return to their farms hoping for a miracle

By Mort Rosenblum  
The Associated Press

AFGOI, Somalia — Haunted-eyed herds are on the road in search of food, but Kasim Ahmad Haider, saved from near death by Red Cross aid last, is headed home to try to farm.

With his irrigation pumps looted, seed gone and thugs waiting to steal crops, Haider knows it will take a miracle to grow food again. He hopes for one.

"We were too weak even to move," said Haider, as his family paused on a 65-kilometre trek to what remains of his 10-hectare farm. "Now we're strong, and we must try again."

"As most relief workers struggle to feed more than one million starving Somalis, others race to get seed and tools to farmers like Haider before the October rainy season. For every Somali who farms, aid specialists say, two families will eat."

War and famine swept most farmers off the lands between the Shebele and Juba rivers, lands rich enough to feed all of Somalia. Looters stole the pumps and pipes. Neglect did the rest.

To farm again, Haider and 50 others will have to dig a

ditch almost-deep and five kilometres long to water their fields, once flooded by a pump.

First he had to get home, he said while walking through this riverside town 24 kilometres north of his village.

"We'll get seed somewhere, maybe just vegetables at first, if we can find a hoe," said Haider, balancing on his head a straw basket of battered pans and diarrhoea medicine, about all he had left.

His wife carried the rest, a roll of dirty bedding, a few rags to wear and their year-old son.

Private agencies and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) are hurrying to help thousands of farmers like Haider plant seed before the coming season of light rains, which has started early.

"It's been the best season in bloody years, and farmers haven't got any seeds," said David Shearer, a New Zealander working for Save the Children of Britain.

Beyond providing seed and tools for this planting season, relief workers want to rehabilitate irrigation systems before the heavier February rains, if they come.

Somalia was nearly self-sufficient in food in 1972,

when its population, now 6.5 million, was much smaller. Experts say it could be again, if the fertile lands between the two southern rivers are fully developed and an efficient marketing system put in place.

But that would take years of orderly development, a distant dream in Somalia today.

For now, the biggest problem is security, and it is out of the farmers' hands.

Along the Lower Shebele near Afgoi, destitute families watch useless weeds grow in their fields and beg for grain in the local market, well-stocked with looted food aid.

"How can we plant when people with guns will only come take it?" asked Kadifa Adam, a young mother who feeds her three children by digging grass from a field to sell as fodder.

A long day's work brings her the equivalent of 20 U.S. cents.

"We fear they will come again," she said. "They take everything, even our clothes."

In the short term, relief officials admit that the powerful are likely to benefit most from the rehabilitation of farms since they own the pumps and the tractors needed to dredge out ditches.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
12:00 ..... Au Claire de la Lune  
12:10 ..... Le Monde Sous Marine  
12:15 ..... News in French  
12:20 ..... Weekly Sports Magazine  
12:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
12:35 ..... News in Arabic  
12:40 ..... Close to Home  
12:45 ..... Go to the Dogs  
12:50 ..... News in English  
12:55 ..... Strains Family

### PRAYER TIMES

04:50 ..... Fajr  
06:00 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:34 ..... Dhur  
16:06 ..... 'Asr  
18:59 ..... Maghrib  
20:18 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637480  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terramata Church Tel. 622666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiut International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 832624, 654922  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be partly cloudy and a drop in temperatures will take place. A rise in humidity will occur and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aspin, it will be dusty with southerly fresh winds and wavy seas.

Amman ..... 20/30  
Aqaba ..... 26/36  
Dhaka ..... 20/35  
Jordan Valley ..... 23/33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35.6, Aqaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul ..... 898140  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad ..... 946071  
Dr. Rami Muzir ..... 894788  
Dr. Jamal Al-Jarrah ..... 794460  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fardous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 677025  
Nabulsi pharmacy ..... 635672  
Al Salim pharmacy ..... 630720  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644943  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 676600

IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qian ..... (-)  
AL-SHARAH pharmacy ..... (275825)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Mubashir Hijwaj ..... (-)

Khalil pharmacy ..... 994676

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630441  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 61111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 63022  
Hotel Complaints ..... 615800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 016230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repair ..... 775111  
Jordan Television ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636981  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/22  
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn. ..... 64281/6  
Aksh Maternity, J. Amn. ..... 64244/2  
Jabal Alaman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mallat, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 664171/4  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845945  
Al-Bashir Hospital ..... 66727/79  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66427/77  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajir ..... 77710/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 89161/126  
Army, Marfa ..... 845945  
Amal Hospital ..... 66240/50  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983223  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)905600  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)987322

Al-Hilam Modern Hospital ..... (09)999990  
IRBID:  
Princess Beama Hospital ..... (02)225555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)227273  
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital ..... (02)947100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (00)93200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Dhaka, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
13:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)

11:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Colombo, Tunis (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:30 ..... Aden (AL)  
09:30 ..... Dhaka (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Khartoum (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
14:30 ..... Rome, Istanbul (TK)  
15:30 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
20:00 ..... Cairo (MS)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
13:25 ..... London (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
14:05 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Dhaka (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:50 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)



## Ministry of Education beefs up efforts to fight illiteracy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education is planning to reduce the illiteracy rate in Jordan from 19 per cent to eight per cent by the end of the century.

"It is hoped that through continued cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other agencies, and through maintaining the adult literacy centres in the country, Jordan will achieve its objectives of drastically reducing the number of illiterate people by the year 2000," the ministry's Director of Education Thouran Obeidat said Sunday.

Jordan, which will observe World Literacy Day Monday, has been working to secure basic education for all citizens since 1952, Dr. Obeidat said. He said a law making it compulsory for all children to finish at least the fifth grade has been effective since 1964.

The 1987 National Conference

on Education, he said, raised the compulsory education level to the 10th grade for all Jordanian children aged between six and 16 years.

Dr. Obeidat said the Ministry of Education has been opening at least one classroom for the first elementary students in any location where there are 10 children and more; the ministry, he said, also made sure that the drop-out rate did not exceed one per cent by 1988 statistics.

To deal with the problem of illiterate people, the Ministry of Education in 1968 opened a number of adult education and literacy centres in various governorates, including the rural and badia regions, Dr. Obeidat said. He said wherever there are 15 adults wishing to acquire basic education, the ministry opens a centre, and this policy has helped Jordan to reduce the rate of illiterate citizens from 67.6 per cent in 1961 to 19 per cent by the end of 1990.

So far, the country has opened 11,240 adult education centres, which offered education to 197,654 adults, according to Dr. Obeidat. He said that the Ministry of Education had adopted a 10-year plan that ended in 1989, aiming to provide education to 200,000 illiterate citizens. It later launched another 10-year plan which started in 1990 to reduce the rate of illiterate people from 13 per cent (within the age of 13 to 44) to a mere four per cent by the end of the century, said Dr. Obeidat. He said that about 140,000 persons were expected to benefit from the plan.

"The first 10-year plan has succeeded in providing basic education to 150,000 and it is hoped that the new ten-year plan, which involves the participation of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), will achieve its goals by the year 2000," Dr. Obeidat added.

## Haddadin to head delegation to water talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has named Dr. Munther Haddadin to head Jordan's delegation to the meeting of the working group on water within the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

A government statement said Saturday that Jordan has received a formal invitation to take part in the group's meetings due to open



Dr. Munther Haddadin

in Washington on Sept. 15.

At the opening session of the multilateral talks held in Moscow last January, the participants decided to break up into working groups on water, refugees, arms control, the environment and economic development.

Dr. Haddadin will also be representing Jordan at a preliminary meeting to be held in Rome later this month to prepare for a general conference on water in the Mediterranean region in October. The Council of Ministers said in a statement that Dr. Haddadin and Mr. Amr Khasawneh will attend the preliminary discussions while Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar will attend next month's water conference.

The Council of Ministers has also set up a delegation to take part in a meeting at the World Bank in Washington. Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz will lead Jordan's delegation to the meeting which will be held on Sept. 18.

## Sharif Zeid instructs ministry to provide sufficient water to Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has instructed the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to provide industrial firms at the Sahab Industrial City on the outskirts of Amman, with sufficient water supplies.

A report that appeared in local press Sunday said the Prime Minister demanded that water be supplied to Sahab Industrial City continuously.

The Prime Minister has also instructed the Minister of Water and Irrigation to exclude the Sahab Industrial City from a water distribution programme applied in the summer throughout the Kingdom, the report said.

It said that the Prime Minister demanded that, an artesian water well be drilled immediately to provide water supplies to the industrial city.

Civil Defence Department firefighters were reported to have been hampered from controlling a fire which broke out at the warehouse of the Fine Hygiene Company in Sahab last month by



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

lack of water. Water had to be brought in by tanker trucks from a number of regions to help extinguish the fire.

The report in Al Ra'i daily said that production in a number of businesses at the industrial city was occasionally halted due to

the lack of sufficient water supplies. The report said pharmaceutical and food industries whose operations were affected by water shortages.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out Sunday at a warehouse owned by one of the food industrial businesses at Sahab. Reports said that firefighters were able to control the fire in half an hour. The warehouse structure was badly damaged by the fire, which burnt most of the material stored at the warehouse. No one was hurt in the fire.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) said that a special committee from the CDD and the Public Security Department has been set up to investigate the cause of the fire.

A CDD spokesman told the Jordan Times Sunday that committees have been working on the three fires which occurred in Jordan at the Sahab Industrial City, and in Zarqa, but no results have been reached.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King receives cables of good wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable from Malta's President Censu Tabone congratulating him on the success of the surgery he had undergone. The King received a similar cable from the Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. The two presidents wished King Hussein speedy recovery and good health.

#### Regent congratulates Swaziland, Brazil, Belgium

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent two congratulatory cables to King Mswati 3rd of Swaziland and President Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil, congratulating them on their countries' independence days. Prince Hassan wished the two leaders continued good health and happiness and their peoples further progress and prosperity. Prince Hassan also sent a cable to King Baudouin of Belgium congratulating him on his birthday anniversary, and wished him a happy and prosperous life.

#### Irbid deputy governor to supervise Sarih elections

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment Saad Hayel Surour has appointed Irbid Deputy Governor Sali Nassar as head of Al Sarih town municipal elections, which will be held Dec. 19. Nominations for the elections will take place Dec. 8-10.

#### Zu'bi wishes King speedy recovery

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi Sunday wished King Hussein a speedy recovery following his successful surgery. Zu'bi, who visited the King in Amman last month, wished the King speedy recovery and a safe return to Jordan. Dr. Zu'bi was speaking at a meeting with Minister of Public Works and Housing Sa'ad Hayel Al Surour, who heads the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Syrian sub-committee's meetings which ended Sunday. Mr. Zu'bi praised Jordanian-Syrian relations, describing them as "unique". The meeting was attended by the Syrian Minister of Housing Husam Al Safadi. Both Mr. Surour and Mr. Safadi briefed Mr. Zu'bi on the outcome of their meetings.

#### Education Committee discusses laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Education committee held a meeting Sunday in the presence of Education Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri. The committee resumed discussion of amending the General Secondary Certificate Examination regulations, wages paid for the ministry's personnel who work overtime during the tawjihi examination and the school fees system. The committee also discussed a report on the Administrative Development and Training Committee.

## Committee says admission criteria unchanged

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the University Admission Coordination Committee Mohammad Al Maqousi said Sunday that there were no changes in the criteria according to which students were accepted at Jordan's four state universities.

He said the committee fully adhered to the admission criteria which are approved by the Council of Higher Education. He said students' scores at the tawjihi examination and their selection of specialisation played a major factor in deciding whether the student will be accepted or not. He said students were given enough information to make the right selection of specialisation and the committee will not accept any blames for wrong selections. Mr. Maqousi ruled out any computer errors in processing the admission data, saying the process was carefully checked.

## WHAT'S ON Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Ali Rida at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art Exhibition by Raikan Dabbas at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramallah, Nabila Hilal and Dodi Tabbara at the National Gallery, Jabal Lawel Park.

## RJ, Azraq society help the needy in celebration of King's recovery

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Jordanian organisations Sunday announced their response to a call by a national committee set up to divert funds on His Majesty King Hussein's recovery to charity.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) said that its staff have donated JD 5000 to the needy and poor people of Jordan. It said the donations will be distributed through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the national committee set up to supervise the collection and distribution of funds to the needy on the occasion of Prophet Mohammad's Birthday.

An announcement said that a cheque for the sum has been

handed to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Alkhatib Al Tamimi.

Al Azraq Cooperative Society and the Salt Refinery Plant in Azraq have also announced a donation of JD 3000 to be distributed on the same occasion to 300 needy workers at the rate of JD 10 each.

The national committee was set up following the King's directives that funds allocated for celebrating his recovery be diverted to charity.

Sheikh Al Tamimi has been entrusted with chairing the committee by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

## Fruit, vegetable exports total 46,600 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fruits and vegetables last month totalled 46,600 tonnes, estimated at about JD4,600,000, according to director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), Salem Al Lawzi. Dr. Lawzi said that vegetables constituted 91.2 per cent of Jordan's agricultural exports, bringing in about JD 3.43 million a year, while vegetables constituted 8.8 per cent, bringing in JD 630,000. Dr. Lawzi said Jordan's agricultural exports in August dropped by about 14,000 tonnes when compared to the preceding month. If compared to August 1991, he said, there was an increase of about 562 tonnes. Dr. Lawzi attributed this difference to the increase in exports of watermelons and cucumbers.

## Eight-day heat wave ends — weatherman

AMMAN (Petra) — After eight days of scorching heat, the Kingdom is expected to enjoy a relatively moderate weather, with temperatures even below normal, according to a forecast by the Department of Meteorology Sunday.

Department Director Ali Abanda said there will be a drastic change in the weather conditions Monday; with a noticeable drop in temperatures.

Accompanying the decline in temperature, there will be a state of unstable condition with the formation of clouds and possible scattered showers, said Dr. Abanda. He said the country will be affected by a mass of relatively mild air, which would cause mild winds to blow from north eastern

Europe. According to Dr. Abanda, the eastern parts of the Mediterranean were affected by a spell of heat over the past eight days due to a mass of hot air over the Arabian peninsula.

The heat wave, which started August 29, reached a peak last Tuesday when the temperatures reached 37 degrees Celsius in hilly regions but registering 41 degrees in downtown Amman.

Dr. Abanda said that Jordan was affected by week-long spells of similar heat in 1930, 1960, and 1969.

Accompanying the drop in temperature, he said, there would be an increase in the rate of humidity. Department officials said that temperatures Monday would not rise above 30 degrees Celsius dropping to 20 degrees at night and in around Amman.

## Butros Salah laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Butros Salah, former under secretary of the Ministry of Information, was laid to rest at the Umm Al Hiran Cemetery Sunday, following a funeral and prayer at the local cemetery church.

The funeral proceeded to the cemetery from Al Hussein Medical Centre where he was admitted Saturday following an acute heart attack which led to his death.

The Late Mr. Salah was born in Nablus on the occupied West Bank in 1927 and was educated in Jerusalem and Britain. He worked as a teacher at private schools in Palestine and later in private companies in Jordan, the Gulf states and Lebanon, before assuming a number of posts at government offices in Amman.

Mr. Salah served as information advisor at the Jordanian embassy in London in 1969 and 1970, and later became director general of the Press and Publication Agency. He worked as director



Butros Salah

of cultural relations at the Ministry of Information between 1973 and 1975, director of Press and Publication Department in 1975 and 1976 and under secretary of the Ministry of Information in 1978. He later served as advisor to the Prime Minister on information matters.

The late Mr. Salah is survived by a wife, a son and a daughter.

## Distribution of textbooks to be completed in 20 days

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 98 per cent of the total number of required school textbooks have been distributed to students since the beginning of the new school year last month, according to Dr. Ibrahim Al Akash, director general of the Ministry of Education's Curricula Department.

In a statement to the press Sunday, Dr. Akash said that remaining books will be distributed to schools in 20 days. He said that a total of 12 million books have been distributed over the past three weeks.

Press reports earlier said that many students are still without textbooks, three weeks after the schools re-opened for the 1992-93 academic year. The reports said that some of the textbooks have

not been approved yet by the Higher Education Council.

Dr. Akash said that the delay in the delivery of some books was expected and the Higher Education Council is aware of this fact.

"Some difficulties and technicalities have delayed the publication of a number of textbooks and teachers and students are called on to cooperate a little towards overcoming the negative aspects of the present situation," said Dr. Akash.

## Learning the hard way

Convinced that education is their 'passport to the future,' Palestinian students at refugee camps persist in their quest for education despite many discouraging and frustrating factors. **Laney Salisbury reports:**

Baq'a Refugee Camp — Back to school for many Palestinian refugees is the return to a summer sun that beats down on unenclosed classrooms. Perseverance, apathy, and the pervading feeling of the day.

In Baqa's 28 kms north of Amman, students crowd classrooms and compete for attention as a student to teacher ratio that ranges between 50-80. But despite disruption and poverty, students continue to graduate from United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) with high marks.

"Education is important," said 10th grade student Maha Jawabreh. "With education we (Palestinians) can progress and improve like other nations to be a great power in the world and to know the ways of life."

Maha is one of 152,000 refugee children in Jordan, studying at the 197 UNRWA-run schools, which this year added a tenth academic year to its programme in line with the government's requirement of compulsory education. Maha is one of 375,000 UNRWA students region-wide.

"The drop-out rate is low because students understand the importance of education, and, especially now, there is not much else to do," said UNRWA Deputy Field Education Officer Omar Ghabayen, referring to Jordan's unemployment rate.

In Baqa's alone, 15,200 students study in schools that work

double shifts out of buildings that were supposed to have been demolished 12 years ago, according to UNRWA, adding that the agency recently built four concrete school buildings from donations and its own funds.

The double shift means teachers have less time to plan lessons, little room for spontaneity and slight leeway to offer the "rich diet of education" students receive in private schools or in the West, said UNRWA Public Relations Officer Matar Saqar, a longtime graduate of camp schools.

But somehow students manage.

In the dusty schoolyard at an elementary school, schoolgirls clutch notebooks and around their necks wear canteens filled with water, since none is available at schools. Four to a desk, they chant multiplication charts as the classroom temperature often reaches 40 degrees centigrade, according to one teacher.

The situation has worsened since, about 70 students must cram into each classroom until four rooms recently gutted by an electrical fire are repaired. Students are studying in the dark.

"Everybody is complaining but the students are accustomed to it and have been accustomed to worse," said Assistant Head for the Baqa's Elementary School for Girls Hiam Jameel Jabbar. "Overcrowding is a general problem and is part of their daily life," she added.

But some teachers say over-



Palestinian students at one of UNRWA's 197 schools (UNRWA photo)

crowding, coupled with UNRWA belt-tightening, is taking its toll on this sector of society that in general treats an educational opportunity like a nugget of gold.

Raja Omar, head teacher of a special education project for slow learners, for example, said she wants to increase the number of students from 100 to about 122. "Many are not really slow learners but low achievers. With 70 students in an elementary class they just don't get the attention they need," she said in her workshop where everything from tools for motor to memory skills are handmade.

Mrs. Omar also helps students with behavioural and emotional problems in the programme in its third and perhaps final year, as funding from the Australian government is may dry up.

"No one knows what will happen to the programme, or the kids next year," she said.

of UNRWA's total budget of \$6.8 million, 37.3 million, or 65.7 per cent is spent on education. The second biggest expenditure is

on health at 16.7 per cent of the budget. Although UNRWA continues to stress education, it can't afford the luxuries of guidance, counselling, special librarians or recreation, outlets for lives frustrated by poverty and politics.

"Students come to us and talk. They don't have family problems but social problems that come with poverty," said teacher Mohammad Dhabar, who lives in Baqa's and is also a former UNRWA student like many of the agency's teachers.

Families spend about JD30 to JD35 on notebooks, bags and clothes, to send each child back to school; a small fortune for the average family of 7.2 members earning about JD150 a month.

UNRWA assists students who fall under its hardship cases where the income of a seven-member family is below JD60 a month, provided the family has no employed male member over 18 years of age about 1,321 families in Baqa's qualify for this assistance.

"Students become frustrated and we have outbursts in class. About two or three drop out every year, but in general the greater the challenge the more motivated the students become," said Mr. Dhabar.

"Once you are displaced of land, and livelihood you have to capitalise on your brain. You can take that where ever you go. Families realise that," Mr. Saqar added.

Perhaps that's what drove ninth grader Arwa Rasheed to pass last year with a 96 average despite boredom, the distraction of a neighbour's radio blasting from one of the low slung buildings of Baqa's and the sounds of mine relatives whispering in a modest home.

School is not like the sitcoms she watches on television where teachers joke with students in between lessons and students breeze through homework in their bedrooms.

But life can be like the movies, she dreams, it just takes a bit more sweat.

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## Democracy by the rules

WITH THE announcement of the arrest of more armed fundamentalist groups and individuals on the heels of the detention of deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qatrash, the issue of state security has mushroomed into wider and deeper proportions. The latest reports speak of some members of the Muslim Brotherhood as well as of Hamas being detained after the search of their homes and offices revealed an assortment of arms and ammunition. This development need not implicate either group as such in actions that may threaten the security and stability of the country. It would be folly to the extreme and a cause for further aggravation of the situation to jump into hasty conclusions about the ultimate aims and intentions of Islamic groups in the country. Yet, on the other hand, the revelations of the last few days tell a perplexing and disturbing story about at least some individuals and small groups of people in the country who would use violence and arms in taking advantage of the democratic freedoms enjoyed by citizens instead of playing the democratic game by the rules.

The Kingdom did not articulate and adopt the National Charter in a vacuum or for no valid and pressing reason. The democratisation process in the country needs certain guidelines without which the whole exercise will come to naught and the enemies of multi-party democracy will end up gaining the upper hand in shaping the future of the nation. It appears that these universally accepted standards have been deliberately violated by some of the players in the democratisation process. But this abuse has been caught early enough and hopefully nipped in the bud once and for all. Still the dangers that loom in the horizon are serious enough to warrant addressing this new phenomenon not only by the State Security Court attorney general and the security forces but by the whole country. There is no better place to air out this problem than in an extraordinary session of Parliament where both the executive and judicial branches of government would also be invited for a joint session.

The representatives of the people of Jordan should be among the first to deal with this evolving crisis and any improvised and informal attempts by some parliamentarians to discuss the issue in an informal meeting would not be sufficient. Only by formally involving Parliament members in the investigative and hearing processes would there be better and more real hopes to find a permanent, reasonable and equitable solution to the new situation in the country. Such an endeavour could turn out to be the highlight of the entire mandate of the current Parliament, because the success or lack of it thereof could go a long way in strengthening or weakening Jordan's decision to go and stay democratic.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

YITZHAK RABIN'S statement expressing desire to see the Gaza Strip sinking in the sea is an admission of the deep concern for Israel, resulting from the continued intifada and the resistance activities which are more surfacing in the Gaza Strip, said Al Ra'i Al Arabi daily Sunday. The paper said this statement indicates that Israel has not learnt any lessons from the past and is obvious to the fact that the Palestinian uprising is bound to continue as long as Israeli forces occupy Arab territory. Neither has Israel benefited from the lessons and the facts that violence can only beget violence and that as long as Israel commits atrocities in the occupied Arab territory, it should expect a violent reaction from the Arabs, said the paper. Had Israel shown a tendency towards peace, it would find the Arabs of Palestine ready to meet it in the middle of the road; but should it continue its terrorist activities against the civilian population of Gaza and the other parts of the Arab territories, it can never expect peace nor should Rabin ever hope for the disappearance of a people because the Palestinians are there to stay as a nation, the paper added. The paper said Israel should abandon its criminal actions, release all the Palestinian detainees and offer constructive ideas to reach a settlement with the Arabs so that peace can be achieved. Mr. Rabin should realise that all the other parts of the occupied territories contain freedom fighters, no less intent than the people of Gaza on regaining their lands and their rights, added the daily. It said Israel should expect continued uprising on the part of the Palestinians until peace and justice have been established.

THE RETURN of the Israeli team of negotiators from Washington is not for consultations with the government but rather for further delaying any peace settlement, said Al Dustour daily. Upon going to Washington for talks with the Arabs, the Israelis have been supplied with all the instructions and the information they require and there is no need for them to disrupt the negotiations under the pretext that they need to talk to the government at home, said the daily. The return of the Israeli negotiators reminds us of the same tactics adopted by the previous government, of Yitzhak Shamir, who was procrastinating discussions of substantive value throughout the past five rounds of negotiations with the Arabs, continued the paper. During their stay in Washington the Israeli negotiators filled the atmosphere with lies and falsehoods in the first week and exploited the second week for stalling and procrastinating with the intention of foiling all attempts on the part of the Arab parties to reach a lasting settlement to the Middle East problem, the paper said. Though it is natural for any negotiators to refer back to their government for consultations, that can be understood only where the negotiators show a glimpse of seriousness about reaching a settlement, the paper added. There is no doubt now, said the paper, that Mr. Rabin is following close in the footsteps of his predecessor, determined to abort the peace process.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Conducting peace negotiations requires new guidelines

The Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli peace talks have demonstrated throughout the six rounds of talks that they could be unduly mercurial in their assessment of the progress or the lack of it in these peace negotiations. The whole world must have noted how temperamental the Arab delegation in Washington has been all along. For example, at the outset of the ongoing Washington peace talks they appeared nearly intoxicated with optimism about the new Israeli stance towards the peace parley. But their euphoria dissipated by the end of the first week. Is it just possible that our negotiators are still amateurish in the conduct of their talks and therefore make judgements that are probably ill founded. By continuously passing verdicts about where their contacts with their Israeli counterparts have led, they often put themselves in corners that are not conducive to proper negotiating positions. By contrast, witness how little public value pronouncements the Israeli side makes about their negotiation with the Arab teams. Seldom does the Israeli side profess optimism or the lack of it after every few sessions, much less at the conclusion of every day of peace talks.

Surely the Arab side must have learnt that the negotiating process is indeed a long and tortuous one that cannot be judged one way or another after one day or week of peace talks. Under the circumstances, it would be more prudent to maintain an air of silence on the achievements, if any, till the end of each round of negotiations. It is probable that the Israeli side is still probing the thresholds of the Arab parties on the terms and conditions of the

eventual peace treaties between the two sides and is deliberately inflating and deflating Arab expectations. It is noteworthy that none of the members of the Arab negotiating teams has real experience in conducting any kind of negotiations, much less the state to state kind.

The Arab side is learning the art of such difficult contacts with their Israeli counterparts as they go along. In retrospect, by and large, the Israeli side is leading the process of negotiations and the Arab side is merely reacting in a non-professional manner. Part of the problem for the Arab parties may lie in assigning the task of peace talks to professional men who are not well-versed in conducting negotiations. Veteran lawyers should have been selected for the task, especially the kind that have acquired wide experience in the give and take tactics of negotiations. This is what the Israeli side has done and it was thought that the Arab countries would have learnt their lessons by watching the choice of negotiators by Tel Aviv and other capitals in the world.

Till such corrective measures are taken, perhaps it would be useful to establish a select group of Jordanian officials who would receive daily reports from the Jordanian teams on what has actually transpired with a view to conduct a deeper than usual analysis of the issues discussed and the manner in which they were discussed. Such a home-based committee would then help formulate rebuttals or counteroffers after conducting a multifaceted analysis. On a periodic basis, the leadership will be duty posted with the latest information in order to give guidance and

instructions. Such a chain of command linking the Jordanian negotiators with their home base may prove very critical in assuring a sensible and rational approach to the conduct of the peace talks away from sensationalism or unnecessary cycles of depressions or euphoria.

Meanwhile, greater efforts should be made to introduce more legal minds into the Jordanian negotiating teams, especially the kind that have acquired the art of negotiating legal instruments.

Till such remedial measures are introduced, perhaps the leaders of the Jordanian negotiating teams should be asked to refrain from making daily assessments as if the negotiating process were conducted on a piecemeal basis. The public is most affected by these shallow daily pronouncements and therefore it would be wiser to abstain from making them till there is a real occasion to make a well-considered remark about where the negotiating process has reached. It would also be useful to warn the people affected by these peace talks that it would be months if not years before the negotiations would lead somewhere or nowhere. Otherwise, the Jordanian electorate would cast its votes in the next general elections on the basis of the latest "weather" report coming their way from wherever the negotiations are being conducted. Accordingly, the kind of parliament that the country will have will end up being determined by the precipitous conclusions that the events of the following weeks may prove false and unfounded.

# For many Somalians, U.N. effort is last chance for survival

By Partha S. Banerjee

NEW YORK — Flies, scores of them, probing festering sores on the dry, wrinkled skin of a child's head. Flies, buzzing about. The child barely alive, a shrivelled mass of skin and bones, staring blankly at a platter of rice, too weak to eat. If the images from Somalia are tormenting, the statistical projections are terrifying. A third of the population of 7.5 million has fled fighting and famine, wandering miles in a hopeless search for food. In Ethiopia in the mid-1980s, it is estimated that one in 40 died of starvation. In Somalia, it could be one in three. Within the next six months.

The only bright news is that the United Nations special representative for Somalia, Mohammad Shanoun, recently managed to obtain guarantees from a recalcitrant warlord fighting the self-styled government to allow 500 U.N. peacekeepers into the country to hold the port of Mogadishu and protect food distribution efforts.

In most parts of Somalia today it is only the man with the gun who is not starving. The capital, Mogadishu, is a city in ruins, ravaged by months of fighting that began late last year between two factions of the United Somali Congress, the group that took over power from Siad Barre, ending his 21 years of dictatorship. One of the factions, led by Gen. Mohammad Farah Aideed, now controls much of southern Mogadishu while Ali Mahdi Mohammad who assumed the title of president, rules most of the north. There are other groups with smaller fiefdoms, and at times relief agencies like the International Red Cross, which is mounting a \$100 million operation (the biggest in its history), have had to cut deals with several of them to ensure that food reaches the starving.

In a recent interview at the U.N. headquarters in New York, Kofi Annan, assistant general secretary overseeing the Somalia operation, spoke at length on the dimensions of the crisis.

Mr. Annan, who hails from Ghana and was educated in Switzerland and America, seemed optimistic about progress. Following are excerpts from the interview.

Will the new agreement reached between the U.N. and Gen. Aideed ensure unimpeded flow of relief supplies? Being lightly armed, will the U.N.

troops be able to keep looters away?

Yes, hopefully. The agreement is very good news, a breakthrough of sorts. Without it, we couldn't bring in the troops since the U.N. acts after securing all parties' approval. The troops will be a sizeable presence and should deter most bandits. Moreover, the two faction leaders have given us their word that their men will not attack convoys. The troops, who will be from Pakistan and will be commanded by a Pakistani officer have orders only to fire in self-defence.

Would you describe the troop deployment as a military intervention of the sort being contemplated for Bosnia?

No, this is not setting a precedent for Bosnia, it's the other way around. Peacekeeping troops to ensure the security of airlift operations in Sarajevo, for instance,

have been around for a long time. But these will be the first such troops in Somalia.

What is the U.N. estimate of the death toll in Somalia?

Obviously, thousands have died. It is difficult to give precise figures. From accounts that reach us, another 1.5 to 2 million people are at risk unless urgent food supplies get in. How many people are dying daily? I wouldn't like to quote any figure. Estimates range between 200-500.

Would you say that the world has not been as responsive to the Somalia famine and civil war as it was to the situation in Ethiopia in the mid-1980s?

Somalia's case has not been lobbied as well. Active lobbying generates a lot of support among governments and ensures media coverage. Ethiopia had active lobbyists in the West. But people

are beginning to pay attention to Somalia now. I sense an increased level of concern with enquiries coming from quarters that were silent until recently.

Would you say that another reason for the rather poor response is that rich countries have become inured to pictures of starvation and suffering, or maybe there has not been adequate media coverage?

It could be a bit of both. The media has only recently been active in Somalia. And we have heard stories of donor fatigue, compassion fatigue. But I am not sure the world has become totally desensitized. The fact is there are too many crises today around the world and the donor nations and organisations are being approached for assistance from many quarters. But now I think Somalia is gradually gaining priority. The recent television pictures have stirred people into

action and I hope that the concern generated will translate into increased aid.

The U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali appears to believe that the international community's preoccupation with the Yugoslav crisis has been at the cost of Somalia. Is the West being more responsive to a European crisis than to an African one?

The secretary general was only trying to caution the international community that we should not be so consumed by one crisis. He was trying to seek a sort of balance and trying to ensure that the U.N. pays equal attention to all problems.

The Somalia famine could well become the worst the world has seen. What should be the world's response?

Bring in as much food as possible. Flood the country with food. Only then will we be able to

break the back of the problem. The issue here is, a man with a gun will not starve. But if there is enough food, and the gunman does not feel the shortage, then he will not rob relief supplies meant for the starving. The food must be shipped not only into Mogadishu but also to other areas. With that approach in mind, we are proposing to break the country up operationally into four sectors, each with a port. Mogadishu, Kismayo in the south, Berbera in the northwest and Boosaso in the north. If we can use these four ports as staging points and work out an effective distribution system and then try to reach some of the remote areas by air, we should be able to contain the situation. But the plan will only succeed if there are a lot of food supplies available and if the security problem is handled.

Do you foresee an international military intervention to stop the fighting and ensure that food reaches the starving masses?

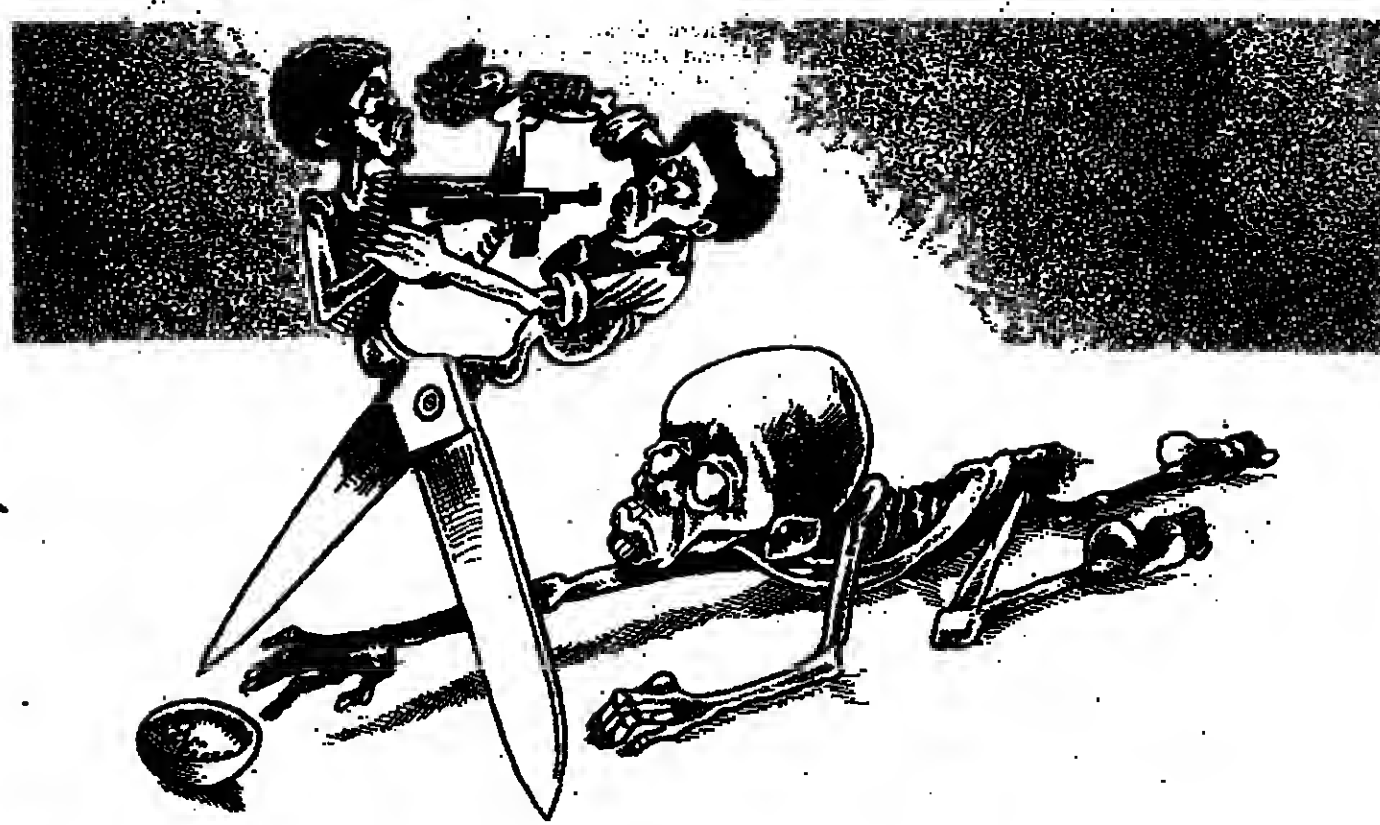
Some believe it should be done if an early truce does not come about. They argue that the hungry and dying have certain rights. This is an issue the international community will have to deal with.

Is the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) prepared to take the initiative on this?

I don't think the OAU would want to intervene because they don't have the means or the experience for such a campaign. But they are cooperating with the U.N., as are the Arab League and Islamic Conference.

In the long term, if the relief effort succeeds in averting catastrophe, what happens? Reports show Somalia as a drought ravaged country with an infrastructure totally destroyed by civil war.

We do have a long-term objective to bring order in Somalia. We are planning to work with the warring factions to bring about a national reconciliation. We are hoping to organise a national conference and invite all the parties. We are also hoping to work with some institutions to help set up local police forces and enforce law and order. We are also hoping to rebuild the institutions and infrastructure, but it is going to be a long haul — World News Link.



M. KAHIL

## Mideast negotiators have 10 days to capitalise on good start

By Barry Schweid  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Arab and Israeli negotiators will use a 10-day recess to try to figure out how to capitalise on their good start in the latest round of Mideast peace talks.

The State Department sessions did not produce an agreement on any of the four negotiating fronts. But in the two most important exchanges — between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Syria — there were breakthroughs.

Israel and the Palestinians swapped blueprints to extend limited self-rule to the 1.7 million Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

And after staring blankly at each other since the peace talks opened 10 months ago, Syria has given the Israelis a written proposal to end their bitter conflict.

Tamar Rabinovich, who was dean of Tel Aviv University until he was appointed to head Israel's delegation in talks with the Syrians, will seek guidance in Jerusalem during the recess on how to respond.

Mr. Rabinovich galvanised the talks at the outset on Aug. 24 by

telling the Syrians for the first time that the 1967 and 1973 land-for-peace U.N. Security Council resolutions applied to the Golan Heights.

Mr. Rabinovich was careful not to say Syria would recover even a portion of the strategic bluff it lost in the 1967 Middle East war with Israel. But his affirmation provides a basis for Syria to reinforce its demand for return of the land.

Israel's concessions on the Palestinian front began before the peace talks got started and have continued since. Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza have been curbed, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners were freed and 11 deportation orders were cancelled.

Israeli negotiators last week gave Palestinians detailed proposals for autonomy that offered a reduced Israeli presence in the territories and Palestinian elections for administrators to run day-to-day affairs.

The Palestinians responded with a demand that Israel halt all settlement activity, complaints about prison conditions and charges that Israel is ignoring their rights to own land.

But with all the rhetoric and

side issues, the Palestinians also submitted a modified version of their self-rule plan. It still aims to establish a state on the West Bank and in Gaza with Jerusalem as the capital. But spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi also assured that the proposal took some of Israel's concerns into account.

Heading into the recess, chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said Thursday "we came closer to understanding on some issues."

Israel had hoped to accomplish more. Chief negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein said he was frustrated. "Patience is needed," he said.

What Israel is banking on — and it seems a smart bet — is that the Palestinians eventually will accept something less than statehood for the time being.

The negotiations are based on an understanding that whatever deal is struck for the West Bank and Gaza will be a temporary one. Negotiations on a final settlement are to follow the trial period of coexistence.

Other measures including the Palestinian uprising have failed and the Palestinians may have no alternative to taking what they can get in the negotiations.

## S. Korean ties with China raise unification stakes

By Andrew Steele  
Reuters

SEOUL — The establishment of diplomatic ties between South Korea and China has raised the stakes in Seoul's confusing political poker game for unification with the communist north, analysts said.

They said Seoul had scored a major coup in marshalling into its own camp the last of the four major world powers with high stakes in Korea — China, the United States, Japan and Russia.

But the ultimate prize of a single Korea and the abolition of the world's last cold war frontier will depend on the so-far unpredictable reaction of the hardline Pyongyang leadership.

North Korea has yet to react to the news that Peking, its principal backer, has consummated a full diplomatic relationship with the south.

"If the forces of pragmatism really are at work in the north, there is bound to be a new mood of compromise in Pyongyang's talks with South Korea," one Western diplomat said.

"But we must not underestimate North Korea's capacity to go it alone. It's not as if Peking is

deserting the north completely," he added.

"The ball is firmly in Pyongyang's court. Its next move will signal whether we are entering a new era of co-operation (with the south), or whether it will try to sit tight and survive in its increasing isolation," another Western analyst said.

This week's scheduled talks between north and south at the border town of Panmunjom will provide a weathervane of northern sentiment following the Seoul-Peking accord, analysts said.

If any progress is made at the talks, scheduled for Wednesday and Friday, it would signal a victory for the northern pragmatists advocating closer contact with the south, they said.

But if Pyongyang adopts stalling tactics at these meetings, it would indicate a northern move to up the political ante, which may lead to the postponement of talks between northern and southern prime ministers slated for mid-September.

The prime ministerial talks in Pyongyang will be the eighth round of the highest-level forum for inter-Korean exchange. South Korea, gleefully count-

ing the benefits of diplomatic ties with China, has said its rapprochement with Peking had laid the cornerstone for the peaceful reunification of Korea, divided since the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

"The normalisation of relations between our two countries marks a significant turning point in world history. It heralds the beginning of the end of the cold war in East Asia, which remains the last legacy of the cold war era," President Roh Tae-Woo said.

Analysts said the new-found friendship between Peking and Seoul may have a knock-on effect, stimulating rapprochement between North Korea and two of its most bitter ideological foes, the United States and Japan.

Pyeongyang's overtures to the world's two major superpowers have so far been spurned because of Washington and Tokyo's insistence that improved inter-Korean dialogue must come first.

Relations between Pyongyang and Seoul thawed at the end of last year when the two signed a reconciliation pact, but disputes over the north's nuclear programme have brought talks on co-operation to a standstill.

مذاكرات



## They used not to be so cynical

PARIS — The idea that George Bush would attack Iraq to advance his electoral interests is not in the least implausible. It would have been an implausible act by most earlier American presidents. Mr. Bush, however, has established for himself a record of cynicism in electoral matters, and also in foreign relations, that the country, if not himself, would have been better off without.

His two wars have both been peculiar affairs. A primary motivation for the U.S. attacks on Panama and Iraq seemed personal animosity felt by Mr. Bush for Manuel Noriega and Saddam Hussein. The centralisation of war power in the presidential office, the marginalisation or neutralisation of Congress, and the obstruction of press scrutiny all have taken great bounds forward under the Reagan and Bush presidencies, contributing to a situation in which a president is held to no effective account for decisions of this kind.

However, if another attack is to take place on Iraq, Saddam Hussein has not been so foolish as to cooperate in providing the justification — this week — by obstructing United Nations inspections. His persecution of the Shiite minority in Iraq's south already has warranted international measures to create and defend a protection zone for them like the one already established for the Kurds in the north of Iraq. Hence it is reasonable to expect a military intervention of one kind or the other, certainly before November.

If only Washington and its allies could find the same zeal to protect not only the Bosnians in what was Yugoslavia, but also those ex-Yugoslavs who must expect to become the next victims of Serbian ethnic purge. But Mr. Bush sees no electoral profit in presidency or political initiative in the Balkans, to avert still more horror.

And in Europe, since Margaret Thatcher left Downing Street, Britain has reverted to its previous foreign policy position, which is to have no independent foreign policy at all, but to follow Washington in whatever it does. Current holder of the European Community presidency, Britain is successfully imposing the same non-policy upon Europe. Only France is offering slight but ineffectual resistance to this programme of inaction — thus having things both ways.

Mr. Bush's reputation as a sound man on foreign policy has always seemed to me unfounded. He is expert in foreign relations, having spent his executive branch career exclusively in offices concerned with international matters. He obviously knows other countries and the major figures abroad. But expertise and experience do not necessarily produce leadership, and the evidence is that Mr. Bush has over the years moved steadily upward towards an office for which he is intellectually and morally unqualified — lacking, as he has plaintively said, the "vision" in world affairs expected from a president.

The two recent presidents who conducted successful foreign policies (whether you like or not what they did) were Harry Truman and Richard Nixon. Mr. Truman was, unlike Mr. Bush, a lifelong reader of history and also a man of formidable moral independence. He would never have remotely imagined advancing his personal electoral interests in disregard of the national interest. His curt dismissal for insubordination of the supremely popular General Douglas MacArthur in 1951 was evidence of that.

Mr. Nixon also possessed a serious geopolitical intelligence, and of course was advised by a man of first-class abilities (and weaknesses, one might add), Henry Kissinger. Mr. Truman had the counsel of a group of officials, formed in the war, who were the best the modern U.S. foreign and military service have possessed.

Those were days when honour and prestige attached to the service of American government. Today, after two decades during which candidates and parties have campaigned against Washington and against the government, just the opposite is true. Mr. Bush has made foreign policy in the past in terms of electoral advantage, and he is doing so now with respect both to Yugoslavia and to Iraq. The message that accompanies Washington's indifference to those suffering in Yugoslavia and those who will suffer if the bombs fall on Iraq is that they shouldn't take it too seriously, it's only politics. — International Herald Tribune.

## Cold, calculated hot pursuit

By Keith Botsford

ENRIQUE CAMARENA — better known as "Kiki" — was an undercover agent of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). He disappeared on February 7, 1985, and a month later his body, together with that of his DEA pilot, Alfredo Zavala Avelar, was found in a slit-trench grave outside Guadalajara, Mexico.

The profession of undercover agent is a risky one; to act for the DEA, one of half a dozen agencies competing for budgets in President Bush's "drug war," is even riskier. One is just as likely to be sold out by agents working for another agency as by members of the underworld.

But for some reason, perhaps the brutal nature of their murders, allegedly after prolonged interrogation under torture, the killing of Camarena caused the DEA to react in a spectacular way. When the agency and the Bush administration thought that Mexico was dragging its feet (despite the fact that several members of the Guadalajara drug mafia had been tried and convicted for the crime) they put out a contract on those who had participated in his murder and not yet been arrested.

Particularly, they targeted Humberto Alvarez Machain, a gynaecologist who, the DEA alleged, had "observed" the torture of Camarena and used drugs to keep him alive for further torture.

In April 1990 Dr. Alvarez Machain was seeing patients in his office when six armed kidnappers broke in, put a gun to the back of his head, bundled him into a car, held him captive for 21 hours, and flew him in a private plane to El Paso, Texas, where DEA agents awaited him. The price of the seizure was allegedly \$50,000 plus expenses.

An almighty fracas then broke out, as Mexico vigorously protested against the kidnapping, claiming on three successive occasions that the U.S. had violated its extradition treaty with Mexico, "invaded" a sovereign state

and violated "all the norms of international law."

A month ago, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that argument was nonsense and over-threw decisions both at District and Appeal Court levels which would have returned Dr. Alvarez Machain to Mexico, there to stand trial as the extradition treaty requires.

For the Supreme Court to have ruled otherwise would clearly have jeopardised the official U.S. position on the "hot pursuit" of those who violate U.S. laws, regardless of whether those crimes are committed on foreign soil and by citizens of sovereign nations. If Mr. Bush invaded Panama just to seize Manuel Noriega, why should kidnappers acting on behalf of the government not seize Dr. Alvarez Machain? Once international law had been weakened by the seizure of Adolf Eichmann in 1960 by Israeli agents, and his subsequent trial and execution, why should less important vengeance not be exacted by governments of their agents?

None the less, the incident, and the Supreme Court decision, left a sour taste in Mexican mouths; and it is unlikely that President Bush's promise on Monday "not to do it again" will be particularly placating — especially given the signs that Mr. Bush's reelection is far from assured.

It was not only Mexicans who were bothered, but much of Latin America, where the famed drug war has impinged severely on the national sovereignty of many countries: Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela, just to mention a few. It is a "war" largely unperceived by American or international opinion, but it involves the U.S. armed forces as well as the various competing drug agencies: in defoliation, satellite detection, overflights, interdiction of air space and the high seas.

Given the high priority attached to the crusade — which in fact does nothing more than raise the price of drugs and in-

crease the profit to dealers — one can understand some of the U.S. administration's impatience. Many of these governments at least appear to be corrupt; no one has ever held up Latin American courts as symbols of quick or impartial justice; and despite some spectacular arrests and extraditions, a fair number of high-ranking drug wholesalers continue their activities untouched.

For all that, extradition treaties with most of these nations do exist, so that offenders charged with a specific crime may be tried with due process. So what reasons did the Supreme Court find for maintaining that Dr. Alvarez Machain should be tried in Los Angeles and that his kidnapping was no violation of due process nor of the extradition treaty with Mexico (a document first signed in the last century and regularly updated)?

The court's reasoning (by a 6-3 decision, with Justices Stevens, Blackmun and O'Connor dissenting) was, basically, that the extradition treaty with Mexico does not specifically bar the seizure of an alleged criminal on foreign soil, and that what is not prohibited is licit: "The decision of whether the respondent should be returned to Mexico, as a matter outside the treaty, is a matter for the executive branch."

The dissenting justices made a far more powerful and reasoned statement than this judicial abdication to executive power. The idea that what is not mentioned in a treaty allows one government to act towards another in violation of international law would, they noted, "transform (its) provisions into little more than verbiage." They went on to argue that if this doctrine held, it would hold equally for other acts: "If the United States, for example, thought it more expedient to torture or simply execute a person rather than to attempt extradition, these options would be equally available, because they, too, were not explicitly prohibited by the treaty ... the court

has, in effect, written ... a new provision ... (that) either contracting party can, without the consent of the other, abduct nationals from the territory of one party to be tried in the territory of the other."

The legal argument has tended to obscure the arbitrariness of the kidnapping itself. The DEA claims it has ample evidence of Dr. Alvarez Machain's "participation" in the murder of Camarena; not unnaturally, the Guadalajara gynaecologist is equally vehement in his denials.

He claims he was called in by another doctor because Kiki, the undercover agent, was poorly. This other doctor, Juan Mejia Monge, had allegedly been assigned to "checking his (Camarena's) pupils and vital

signs." And what else could Dr. Alvarez Machain have done once summoned, but treat a sick person?

The DEA's case is put with some favour by John C. Lawn, who headed the DEA at the time of the kidnapping and is now in a less demanding job as chief operating officer of the New York Yankees baseball club. He has acknowledged that "getting Alvarez" was a top priority for the agency, despite the fact that he was not directly responsible for Kiki's death.

The background to this is part of American legal folklore. Because proving drug crimes is singularly difficult, in 1970 Congress enacted the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act (RICO), a blunt instrument by

which anyone connected in any way with any alleged crime can be prosecuted under rules of evidence and proof that would not stand up in an individual prosecution.

But Dr. Alvarez Machain's kidnapping and his forthcoming trial, courtesy of the Supreme Court, are not about law at all, but rather about war and a crusade. If you want a taste of what is involved, listen to Mr. Lawn: "We talk about the Hippocratic oath, the role of a doctor to maintain the wellbeing of a person, and then we learn about a doctor who keeps a person alive so that he can be tortured and killed. That is just horrifying. It reminds me of something that happened a few decades ago," — presumably in Nazi Germany.

As cynics have observed, all it would take to persuade the Supreme Court that government-sponsored kidnapping of foreign nationals for crimes committed abroad is not a good idea would be for General Qadhafi of Libya to kidnap an American or two on U.S. soil. But, given the realities of American politics, where visible signs of action, whether wise or unwise, are what counts, the smart money is not on the abandonment of further such kidnappings.

Manuel Noriega, who was, after all, a head of state, has just been sentenced to 40 years in a Florida court, to the plaudits of the administration; Humberto Alvarez Machain is not likely to be given a more favourable verdict — The Independent.



Part of the largely unperceived "drug war" — a DEA squad on a poppy raiding mission in Latin America, tactics also involve satellite detection and the interdiction of air space

## 'Super cassava' could save poorest of Africa's poor

By Tunde Obadina

IBADAN, NIGERIA — Crop breeders in Nigeria have developed an improved variety of cassava they say could double output of the staple and help fight famine in Africa.

"It has the potential of a major breakthrough in terms of yield," Lukas Brader, director-general of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), told Reuters.

IITA researchers discovered the "super cassava" by crossing cultivated species and wild varieties of the tuberous plant.

"They are clones that can produce at least double the yield of traditional varieties," Mr. Brader said of the highbred cassava.

The new variety, with more chromosomes, has been tested in various African countries with encouraging results, he said.

Cassava specialists at IITA, one of 18 worldwide centres linked in the consultative group on International Agricultural Research, have for the past 20 years worked on developing high-yielding and pest resistant varieties.

Over the period IITA, a non-profit organisation backed by

western donors including the World Bank, has supplied improved cassava varieties to more than 30 African countries.

High calorie cassava, an irregular oval shaped tuber also known as manioc, is a cheap staple that provides half the energy needs of more than 200 million people in Africa.

Cassava is processed to reduce its cyanide content and eaten whole or grated or fermented to make various traditional dishes. The crop's leaves can also be used in sauces.

"It is the crop of the poorest of the poor," says Steven Lawani,

IITA's director of information. However, a growing number of middle-class households, hit by economic austerity, are shifting to cassava from more expensive staples like rice and yam.

Cassava is widely grown in West and Central Africa under environmental conditions varying from semi-arid to humid forest. It can thrive in poor soils and is resistant to drought. It does not need chemical fertiliser or much rain.

The crop can also be left in the ground for long periods, enabling farmers to harvest as required and without the need for storage facilities.

The ease of growing and maintaining the root crop makes cassava Africa's quintessential cheap food, said Mr. Lawani.

IITA officials believe the new varieties can help Africa overcome its food production problems at a time when agriculture output lags behind population growth.

"It may not eliminate hunger but it could substantially reduce the incidence of famine," Mr. Lawani said.

About half the world's 160 million tonnes of annual cassava production is grown in Africa,

with Nigeria accounting for about a third of the continent's output. Nigeria has become the world's largest cassava producer over the past three years, largely thanks to the use of improved varieties developed by IITA.

"Nowhere in the world has there been a doubling of crop yield within five years, which is what has happened with cassava in Nigeria," Mr. Brader said.

IITA officials believe other parts of Africa where cassava is not now grown in large quantities, like drought-hit southern Africa, could benefit from cultivating the crop.

"We are pushing cassava to the northern limits of the sahel and down south as far as Zambia," Mr. Lawani said.

Though the "super cassava" has many obvious advantages, IITA scientists say more work still needs to be done to improve the crop further, especially to raise its nutritious content.

"It's of course interesting to produce high yields but it is equally important to produce varieties with a higher nutritional quality," Mr. Brader said.

"We think we will be able to identify clones with higher protein," he added.

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## Iraq accused of withholding details

(Continued from page 1)

ing operation of an incinerator to used to destroy 40,000 leaking poison-gas munitions at a laboratory complex bombed during the Gulf war.

On Saturday, a three-man team led by Briton Ron Manley arrived to check the incinerator and hydrolysis unit at Muthana, 30 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

Destruction of the chemical weapons is expected to last into 1993.

Mr. Zifferero appeared overall to be optimistic.

In other developments: A senior Ministry of Information official declared Sunday Iraqis would rather die fighting than give to Western attempts to reimpose colonial rule.

"Surrender is not in the character of a people like the Iraqis, who possess the potential for progress and revival," Nouruddin Al Marsoumi wrote in the newspaper Babil.

Iraq said Sunday it had finished digging its Third River irrigation project and water would soon flow from Baghdad to the head of the Gulf.

"All excavation activities concerning the leader's river are over," project operations room director Zuheir Abbas Mahmoud told the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah.

"Most sections of the river will be ready to receive the flow of water once the slopes are trimmed."

The 565-kilometre Third River is being built to reclaim salty land by washing it with excess irrigation water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's new ambassador to the United Nations, arrived in Jordan Saturday en route to New York. Mr. Hamdoun, a former deputy foreign minister and ex-ambassador to the United States, refused to

answer questions.

"I don't have any intention to give any statements to reporters until I get to New York," he said.

A senior Kuwaiti health official said Sunday that Kuwait will have to write off tonnes of medical equipment and supplies returned from Iraq.

"All of our equipment was totally and deliberately damaged. There is not one item that we can use," said Dr. Abdul Rahim Al Zeid, the Health Ministry's assistant undersecretary for technical affairs.

The official would not give a figure for the losses, but he said the government was going to claim compensation for the damaged equipment through the United Nations.

## Non-aligned summit ends with assertion

(Continued from page 1)

The movement reiterates long-standing concerns over Palestine, apartheid in South Africa and international military spending.

On the Middle East, the message said, "we vigorously support the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to secure their inalienable rights and independence and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab lands."

On the United Nations, it said: "The Non-Aligned Movement should play a leading role in revitalising, restructuring and democratising the United Nations system. To this end, we have decided to establish a high-level working group charged with the elaboration of concrete proposals for the strengthening of the United Nations."

Several non-aligned leaders want the powers of permanent members of the Security Council trimmed to allow developing nations a greater voice in running the world body.

Another resolution said the widening gap between industrialised nations of the North and developing lands in the South threatens international stability.

"The main challenge facing the international community was redress of the stark contrast between the affluence of the North and the impoverishment of the South," it said.

It proposed reactivation of North-South dialogue on development and said such a dialogue "should not be, cast any

more in terms of 'demands' on the part of the developing countries or misperceived as 'charity' on the part of the advanced countries."

Written in sober terms, the position paper eschewed the confrontational tone of the Non-Aligned Movement's earlier years.

Iraq complained it had been gagged after the movement refused its plea to express "grave concern" over the "no-fly" zone imposed on southern Iraq by the United States, Britain and France.

"As a result, the delegation of my country registers its strong reservation on paragraphs 29 and 30," Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan told the final closed session in a speech.

He was referring to the two Gulf-related clauses in the final political declaration. These welcomed Kuwait's liberation and demand, without naming Iraq, implementation of "all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding the region."

The Security Council is maintaining its two-year blockade until Baghdad complies fully with these resolutions.

"It (Iraq) has not been allowed to discuss the issue and to prove whether our request was acceptance or not, and despite the fact that it (the air exclusion zone) is of dangerous and vital importance to the future of all countries in the movement," Mr. Ramadan said.

## Efforts to free Shbeilat stepped up

(Continued from page 1)

two colleagues, the Muslim Brotherhood deputies demand a constitutional amendment that would guarantee the treatment of a member of Parliament on equal footing with a minister. Hence he should not be charged except with the approval of a two-thirds majority vote in the House. This is demanded in appreciation of the role the deputy is assuming and the popular base which he represents.

Otherwise any revengeful accusation would eventually put him behind bars until he is proven innocent.

"The Muslim Brotherhood believes that protection of the country's security and its citizens' safety is of sublime value and one should not be lenient with those who dare to encroach upon them, irrespective of their position. The bloc, however, refuses to see this principle exploited as an umbrella to infringe on other people's freedoms which were guaranteed by the Islamic law and safeguarded by the Constitution."

In the light of the above, the Muslim Brotherhood deputies declare the two deputies innocent until the court proves them otherwise.

The bloc hopes this case be regarded within the context of the circumstances that faced this region during the Gulf crisis when the nation was threatened by the aggressors, prompting people, including members of the legislative and executive authorities, to undertake all possible measures to defend the homeland.

"The Muslim Brotherhood members were dismayed at what they heard about the way in which Deputy Laith Shbeilat was moved from Swaga prison to the State Security Court. He was moved handcuffed in a prison van although we know he is one of those patriots, keen on defending his country."

"The Muslim Brotherhood hopes that the two colleagues be accorded the best conditions afforded to any other citizen in their position regarding their release on bail and fair treatment."

"We demand that all media campaign against the two deputies be halted and that they be granted sufficient chance to defend themselves with human dignity and in line with the democratic path which Jordan has charted for itself."

## Arabs lost \$620b in Gulf war

(Continued from page 1)

per cent during the 1990-91 crisis, the level that prevailed in the 1970s when oil prices quadrupled as a result of the oil embargo of 1973.

The report said the Arab states spent \$165 billion on food imports from 1980 to 1991.

It estimated the "food gap" at \$15 billion in 1991 and said this posed a "great danger" to the Arab states.

The report estimated Arab oil exporters earned \$101 billion in 1990, and \$96 billion in 1991. Increased oil sales by Saudi Arabia and the UAE helped make up for the removal of Iraq and Kuwait from the market during the war.

Iraq has yet to export any oil. Kuwait has gradually been increasing exports since mid-1991.

The report also blamed the Gulf crisis for widening budget deficits of Arab governments.

The aggregate deficit of Arab government budgets rose to 18 per cent of total expenditures in 1991 from six per cent in 1990, the report said.

It also said Arab states gave \$6.3 billion as development aid in 1990, bringing total aid since 1970 to \$100 billion. Gulf states were responsible for more than 90 per cent of the total, with 64 per cent from Saudi Arabia, 16 per cent from Kuwait and 10 per cent from the UAE.

## UNEP warns of dumping in Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

tre for Research in Agroforestry. Mr. Tolba said the Italians were taking advantage of Somalia's lack of government and general instability to carry out the illegal venture.

To protect his sources, Mr. Tolba would not name the Italian companies or say where they planned to dump the waste.

Somalia has been devastated with clan fighting, banditry and looting and without any central government since rebels ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991.

Mr. Tolba warned that the dumping could aggravate the destruction of Somalia's ecosystem and threaten further loss of life in the ravaged nation where tens of thousands of people have already died from drought and war.

Mr. Tolba said the Italians currently were manufacturing two incinerators to be installed in Somalia that would handle at least two 500,000 tonne shipments of toxic wastes next year for an estimated profit of \$4 million to \$6 million.

## Deputy's wife says he is innocent

(Continued from page 1)

typed statement before she answered reporters' questions, referred to an article written by her husband and published in Al Ra'i last June following the assassination of anti-Muslim fundamentalist Egyptian writer Faraj Fodeh. The article, headlined "Condemnation and rejection of violence as a means of struggle in our societies," condemned the killing.

Mr. Shbeilat, an independent Islamist, was detained last week for questioning and later charged for transport and possession of explosives. He is being held at Swaga prison.

"All logic and reason contradicts that Laith Shbeilat is one of the people who deal with violence and arms as a means to achieve change," Mrs. Shbeilat stated.

She expressed optimism that her husband would be acquitted, a view shared by her husband's lawyers.

Mr. Shbeilat's lawyer told the Jordan Times Sunday that the State Security Court prosecutors had no legal evidence that could convict him in any court.

Mr. Bakr, who heads a battery of defence lawyers for Mr. Shbeilat, insisted that the charge against the deputy was based on confessions by two suspects held under custody and did not constitute sufficient grounds to convict him.

"The charge against him is based on supposition, which is not true in the first place," Mr. Bakr said.

Mr. Shbeilat was detained after allegations made by the two that his car was used to transport weapons.

"Any court, even a military court, cannot convict a person based on confessions made by an accused against another person who is accused unless it is corroborated with other evidence," Mr. Bakr said. He referred to Article 148 of the criminal procedure law of 1961 that suspects' testimonies were not enough to convict another.

While the state security prosecutors have kept a tight lid on the findings of their investigations of cases involving illegal arms and explosives, security sources have led that Mr. Shbeilat would have been arrested if there was no concrete evidence against him, especially that he enjoyed wide public support.

"Security officers confiscated video tapes, documents—including several files related to corruption cases in which Mr. Shbeilat was working on as head of Parliament's Investigations Committee—cassettes and computer disks from the deputy's office before he was detained, according to his associates."

Mr. Shbeilat has refused to answer any questions by the State Security Court prosecutor-general after Mr. Bakr was not permitted a private session with his client, adding that he would make his statements in a formal court hearing, according to his lawyer.

Mr. Bakr told the Jordan Times that his request for a one-to-one meeting with Mr. Shbeilat was rejected. The prosecutor-general insisted that a clerk be present at the meeting, something the lawyer rejected.

Prosecutor-General Muhammad Hijazi confirmed to reporters that a court clerk must be present at the private meeting in a statement he made outside the court on Saturday after Mr. Shbeilat pleaded not guilty to the charge against him.

"I should be given full opportunity to meet my client privately," Mr. Bakr told the Jordan Times.

The prosecutor-general also did not permit the group of lawyers defending Mr. Shbeilat to see him. But the attorneys, who include three Lower House deputies, saw him as he was walking outside the court to be transported back to prison in handcuffs. He reportedly lifted his handcuffed hands to wave to his colleagues.

Mrs. Shbeilat also questioned why her husband had not been granted a private session with lawyer, and why he was not granted bail "although the law allows bail in exceptional cases."

"The concerned authorities saw there was no exceptional circumstances in this case—of a parliamentarian who received the highest number of votes in his district, and he is also the head of the Parliamentary committee investigating corruption—to grant him a private session with his lawyer," Mrs. Shbeilat complained.

According to lawyers, the prosecutor-general of the State Security Court has the right to decide whether an accused could see his attorney privately or not before questioning.

Mr. Hijazi was quoted as saying Sunday that the prosecution would try to question Mr. Shbeilat again on Tuesday after the deputy refused to say anything except in a court hearing.

## Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

who spearheads the Christian boycott that has failed to stop the polls, said in a sermon Lebanese needed an honest parliament.

"When dialogue is cut between people and those who govern, peace is in jeopardy," he warned.



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# India moves forward on literacy

By R.C. Rajamani

Literacy is a major input for development, especially for a democracy like India. When India attained independence in 1947, the literacy rate was a dismal 16 per cent. A daunting task lay ahead of the young nation.

Inspired by the visionary, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, the country took the challenge. The task was to bring a land long used to a feudal system which was sought to be perpetuated by vested interests which wanted India to remain in a state of backwardness. Making slow, but steady progress, India finally crossed the 50 per cent mark in 1991 when the census showed a literacy rate of 52.11 per cent. This is an increase of more than ten per cent over the 1981 rate of 41.42 per cent. While male literacy is 68 per cent, up by more than 10 per cent over the 1981 figure, female literacy is 39.42 per cent, up by 11 per cent more than the 1981 figure of 39.42 per cent. The literacy drive gained particular momentum in 1988 when the National Literacy Mission (NLM) was launched. The NLM is one of the five technology missions set by the then government to identify and prioritise areas of development.

The main objective of the NLM is to impart functional literacy to 80 million illiterate people in the 15-35 age group by 1995. The focus is on rural areas and a special concern for women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The mission's progress so far has confirmed that eradication of illiteracy is no more a utopian dream, but possible. Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have already achieved 100 per cent literacy, while other states are working towards it.

Kerala is the first state to have achieved 100 per cent literacy. The manner and methodology adopted for the

Kerala campaign became a model for the rest of the country. A mass mobilisation campaign was launched under the auspices of the National Service Scheme (NSS) wing of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam on March 18, 1989. This town was first taken up for the total literacy campaign which later spread to the rest of the state. The town's municipality and its collector involved themselves actively in the programme.

First it was identified that there were 2,000 people in the age group of 5-65 still to be made literate. A concerted effort by everyone involved saw Kottayam 100 per cent literate on June 25, 1989. The campaign reached its fruition exactly 100 days after it was launched, thus making a signal success in the work of the National Literacy Mission.

In fact, a much greater effort was launched earlier, on January 26, 1989, to make the entire district of Ernakulam 100 per cent literate. In this task, about 21,000 volunteer instructors were involved in transforming about 1,50,000 illiterate people into a literate population. Students, teachers, unemployed youth, retired employees, police officers, medical officers, trade unionists as well as religious leaders wholeheartedly participated in the campaign. The district achieved 100 per cent literacy in October 2, 1989, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Kerala then moved to take up the task of making the entire state literate. The total literacy drive was spearheaded by the Kerala Sahasra Samiti (KSS), an autonomous registered body with representation of all sections of political and social leadership. The campaign began with a one day literacy survey on April 8, 1990 to identify the number of illiterate population in the state. A total of 18,74,217 people were identified as prospective literacy learners in the age group of 5-60 years. The districts in the state were divided into 43 project areas, each catering to 50,000 to 60,000 learners.

Each project area was further split into 20 sub-project areas, each taking care of 2,500 to 4,000 learners. Five persons from each project area were selected as key-

resource persons and given training. They trained 2,500 district level resource persons who in turn conducted block level training. In all, 2,37,650 instructors were trained, 65 per cent of them being women.

The key to the success of Kerala campaign was voluntarism and mass participation which transcended religious, caste and class barriers. The Hindu priests, the mullahs and church leaders were one in advocating total literacy to the people. With such a tremendous upsurge of co-operation, it was no wonder Kerala became 100 per cent literate in April 1991.

After Kerala, the neighbouring union territory of Pondicherry, attained 100 per cent literacy late last year. The Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra, Bhandara in West Bengal and Dakshin Kannada in Karnataka also achieved the honour during 1991.

The literacy data contained in the 1991 census provides some interesting information which is a vital input for the campaign to eradicate illiteracy from the entire country.

The number of literates (aged 7 and above) in 1991 was 352 million compared to 234 million in 1981. The number of illiterates in the age group marginally rose from 302 million in 1981 to 324 million in 1991. The increase in the number of literates in 1991 over 1981 was 118 million, whereas the corresponding increase in the number of illiterates was 22 million only.

Kerala (90.59 per cent) tops in the literacy rate, followed by Mizoram — 81.23, Lakshadweep — 79.23 and Chandigarh — 78.73 per cent. At the bottom of the ladder are Bihar — 38.54, Rajasthan — 38.81 and Dadra and Nagar Haveli 39.45 per cent.

Kerala serves as an ideal model worthy of emulation by the rest of the country insofar as indices of development are concerned.

The state has not only registered the highest rate of literacy in the country but also performed well in a number of health indicators such as infant mortality rate, death rate, couple protection rate. This serves to prove the point that there is a direct relation between literacy and development.

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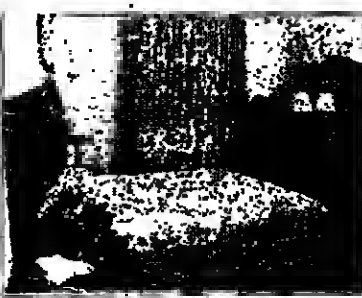
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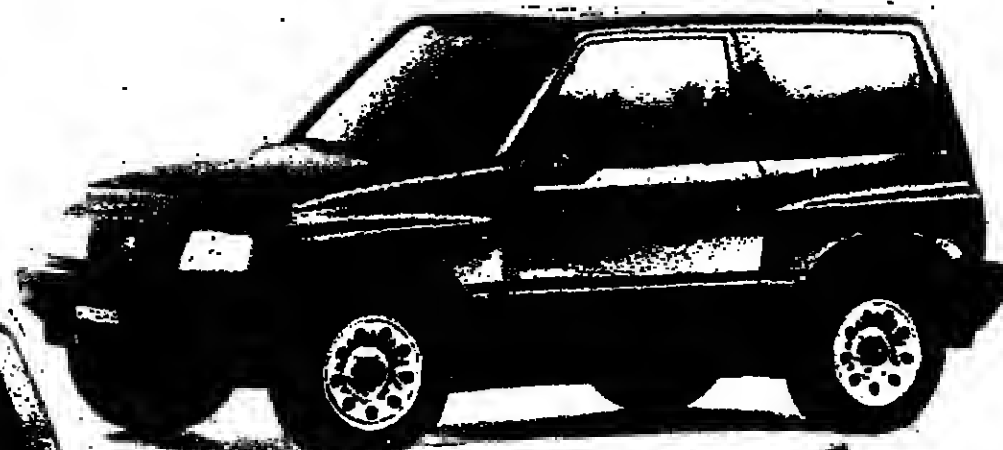
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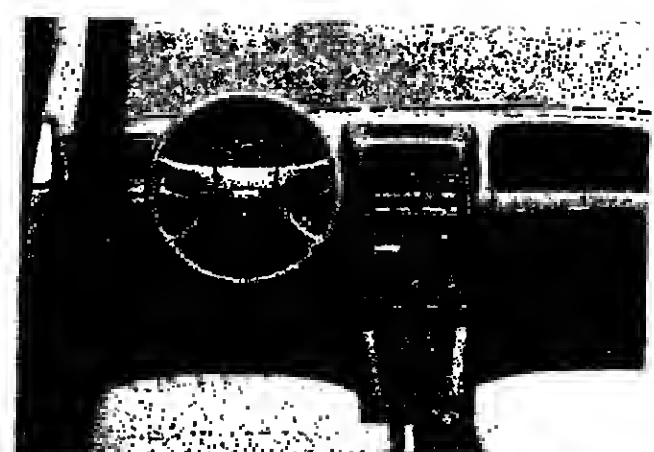
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## Agassi advances at U.S. Open

### Courier, McEnroe set up showdown

NEW YORK (R) — Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi advanced to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open after a hard-fought match against Ivan Lendl.

Agassi, who lost to Lendl in the first round of Wimbledon, showed a new level of confidence and aggression in his U.S. Open debut.

"I'm glad to win because I get to play Courier, the number one player in the world," said Agassi after his 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Lendl.

Courier, winner of the Australian and French Opens, advanced to the quarterfinals with a 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win against Lendl.

"I see it as my next match and every match is a new challenge," said the low-key Courier.

"Here the food is not good. If you eat those McDonald's cheeseburgers you go to the hospital forever," said Ivanisevic, who became the highest men's seed to fall.

Agassi, loser of just 21 games in a trio of straight-set successes, beat Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

The fifth-seeded Ivanisevic played a debilitating case of stomach cramps on American fast food after losing 6-4, 6-0, 6-3 to Russian Alexander Volkov in a lightning first one hour 14 minutes.

"I'm glad to win because I get to play Courier, the number one player in the world," said Agassi after his 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Lendl.

Next up for Rubin is another Maleeva — Magdalena. Magdalena Maleeva, who ousted four-time champion Navratilova in the second round, advanced with a 6-2, 6-3, victory over American Kimberly Po.

Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, the oldest of the Bulgarian-born baseliners, looks as a possible quarterfinal foe after advancing to the fourth round with a 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 win over Andrea Strnadova of Czechoslovakia.

Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf was not at her best but the second-seeded German was good enough to beat Nanna Dahlman of Finland 6-4, 6-2 to take her place in the fourth round.

## Syria dominates first day of Pan-Arab Games

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's Ghada Shuaib threw the javelin 53.24 metres, an Arab women's record, Saturday to capture first gold in the Pan-Arab Games and give the host country an early lead in the medals table.

The old record, 52.40 metres, was set by Morocco's Samia Jama in 1985.

Zuhair Qassim of Tunisia got the silver, throwing 47.46 metres and Fidaia Khouri of Syria bronze with 37.16 metres.

At the end of Saturday's events in four cities Syria was top of the table with two gold, two silver and two bronze. Algeria, one of the Arab World's Maghreb powerhouses, was the only other country to take two gold Saturday.

The 3,000 metres steeplechase was won by Saudi Arabian Mohammad Al Dosari in 8 minutes 40.17 seconds. Syrian Salahuddin Mustafa was second in 8:41.05 and Larabi Khattab of Morocco took bronze in 8:42.50.

Egyptian weightlifter Mohammad Ahmad Osman won the flyweight (52 kg) class with a total of 215 kg. Silver went to Saudi Arabian Ahmad Baker with 205 kg, bronze to Lebanese Marouf Tarjeh, 197.5 kg.

Algeria's Asri Saced lifted a total of 240 kg for gold in the bantamweight (56 kg) class. Ashraf Abdul Fattah of Egypt and Syria's Khaled Ramadan both lifted 235kg but the Egyptian was placed second because his body weight was 100 grammes less.

Jordan's basketball team, defending the title won at the 1985 games in Morocco, squeaked past Egypt 82-80 while Syria trounced Lebanon 114-96.

The basketball competition was to continue Sunday with Tunisia v Palestine and Saudi Arabia v Kuwait.

Egypt's women's volleyball squad scored an easy victory over Palestine 15/2, 15/2, 15/1. Tunisia beat Lebanon 15/3, 15/6, 15/7.

In Handball, Syria beat Lebanon 41-17 and Egypt defeated Tunisia 22-17.

### MEDALS TABLE

DAMASCUS (R) — Medals table in the Pan-Arab Games after Saturday's first-day events in four Syrian cities:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Syria	2	2	2
Algeria	2	2	2
Egypt	1	1	2
Saudi Arabia	1	1	1
Morocco	1	1	3
Qatar	1	—	—
Tunisia	—	2	—
Lebanon	—	—	1

## Controversy mars 100-metre Paralympic Games record

BARCELONA (AP) — On the paralympic victory podium, United States sprinter Tom Volpentest and Dennis Oehler appeared to be the same size.

Oehler, 32, from Valley Stream, New York, lost his right leg in an automobile accident in 1984, just days before he was to sign a professional soccer contract.

Volpentest, meanwhile, came within five-hundredths of Oehler's record in Saturday's semifinal heats. But despite congenital birth defects that have left him with only a portion of his left ankle and virtually no arms, Volpentest torched the field in the 100-metre finals.

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The two will get a second crack at one another later this week in the 200 metres.

"I don't want to take anything away from the kid (Volpentest) because he trained hard and ran a good race," Oehler said.

"But there's no way we should be in the same race. I've got a prosthesis and I do the best I can with it. He actually was advantage because he runs with two," Oehler added.

But Volpentest stood head and shoulders above the competition in winning the 100 metres for single amputees in the Paralympic Games before 41,300 fans at Montjuic Stadium, and therein lies the problem.

Volpentest smashed Oehler's world record en route to the gold medal in 11.63 seconds, a time made even more incredible if you consider that Carl Lewis is less than two seconds faster on two good legs.

Oehler finished second in 12.38, while Neil Fuller of Australia was third in 12.55.

Volpentest ran with two prosthetic legs atop "flex feet," springy false feet that some believe increase his speed. In addition, Volpentest's prostheses added several inches to his height, thereby dramatically increasing his stride.

"I don't want to take anything away from the kid (Volpentest) because he trained hard and ran a good race," Oehler said.

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## Bugno wins 2nd straight World Cycling Championship

BENDIGNO, Spain (AP) — Gianni Bugno of Italy won his second consecutive World Cycling Championship Sunday with a powerful sprint up the final stretch, denying Miguel Indurain's bid to capture the sport's triple crown.

Bugno edged second-place Laurent Jalabert of France and third-place Dimitri Konychev of Russia.

Indurain, of Spain, finished sixth and failed in his attempt to become only the third rider to win the Tour De France, Tour Of Italy and world title in the same year.

Ireland's Stephan Roche last accomplished the feat in 1987.

Bugno, 28, covered the 261.6-kilometre (162.7-mile) course in 6 hours, 34 minutes and 27 seconds to become only the fourth rider to win the title in back-to-back years.

The race came down to the last kilometre with almost 20 riders jockeying for position on a flat stretch before the final, uphill dash for home.

Tony Rominger of Switzerland was fourth and Steven Rook of the Netherlands — second last year — finished fifth.

The United States made up for near-victories the last two years to win the women's 50-kilometre team time trial Saturday in the World Cycling Championships, edging the French — the defending gold medalists.

The American team of Bunka Bankajis-Davis, Eve Stephenson, Jan Bolland and Jeanne Golay clocked 1 hour, 3 minutes and 30.7 seconds, more than 12 seconds ahead of the French and just over 46 seconds in front of the third-place Russians.

The U.S. women won the silver medal in 1990 but had a disappointing fourth-place finish last year when one of their riders was thought to have had an "off-day." That rider, Maureen Manley, was later diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"She (Manley) had a few problems before, like vision problems, but they weren't connected right away to multiple sclerosis," said Melanie Ramsey, the team's trainer.

"After the things that have happened in the last couple of years we figured it had to come together this time," said Bankajis-Davis, the 34-year-old team leader from Cleveland, Ohio, who announced her retirement after the victory.

Stephenson, 22, the other member of last year's team added: "We went out thinking something might happen bad — because it usually does."

Not this time. The American foursome had the fastest time at 17 kilometres, the first checkpoint. At the 30-kilometre mark, the United States was still up by just under 10 seconds over the French, who closed from fifth to second but could get no closer over a hilly course that was to the Americans' liking.

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# U.N.: Preliminary probe shows plane was shot down in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AP) — An initial investigation supports eyewitness accounts that a crashed Italian relief plane was shot down by ground-to-air missiles, a senior U.N. officer says.

But an Italian Air Force general investigating the crash said Saturday the final findings could take months.

The plane's four crewmen were killed when the plane crashed Thursday west of Sarajevo, and all U.N. relief flights were suspended.

In the Bosnian capital, heavy rain and cold, blustery weather quieted the big guns Saturday, but Bosnia's government said Serbs were using water and electricity cutoffs as new weapons against the city's residents.

Fighting flared elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bosnia's Health Ministry said for the 24-hour period ending at noon Saturday, 20 people had died and 182 were wounded, including six dead and 79 wounded in Sarajevo.

More than 8,000 people have died — some estimates say up to 35,000 — and tens of thousands are missing in Bosnia's civil war, which began after Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia. An estimated 2 million people are refugees.

The senior U.N. officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said according to an initial investigation, two missiles — either Stingers or Strelas — were used to shoot down the relief plane.

Strelas are the Yugoslav versions of SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles. Previously, Western officials have said there was evidence the twin-turboprop transport may have been downed by an anti-aircraft missile.



Residents queue for water supplied by tankers in central Sarajevo as water taps run dry

The U.N. officer, who visited the mountainous crash site southwest of the city, told the Associated Press that the plane was hit by two missiles between 1,400 and 2,000 metres (4,000 and 6,000 feet) and descending toward Sarajevo's airport. He said one missile hit the engine, which explained why part of it was found far from the main crash site.

Brig. Gen. Luciano Battisti, chief of flight safety for the Italian Air Force, said if the plane was indeed shot down, a "man-portable, infrared missile" was used. He called for an investigation to determine which party in Bosnia's conflict possesses such a weapon.

Troops of Bosnia's Muslim, Croat and Serb factions all operate around the area where the

Italian plane crashed. Serb and government officials have blamed each other.

Battisti, who spoke at Sarajevo's airport, where U.N. soldiers loaded four body bags with the crew's remains onto a C-130 transport plane, said he was bringing pieces of the plane to Italy for investigation. The biggest piece was about 6 feet long and appeared to be part of the turboprop.

The U.N. airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital was suspended after the crash. In Geneva, the chairman of a peace conference called for an emergency meeting of the warring parties to discuss a resumption of humanitarian relief flights.

The airlift, which has so far delivered about 1,000 plane-loads of food and aid, is considered

vital for the survival of Sarajevo's 400,000 remaining inhabitants.

In a related development, the United Nations' top peacekeeping official said the U.N. secretary-general would recommend to the Security Council a "considerable enlargement of both the mandate and the strength" of U.N. forces in Bosnia.

The official, Marrack Goulding, in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, said U.N. peacekeepers could provide military escorts to humanitarian land convoys or use military trucks and drivers to deliver the goods themselves on especially dangerous routes.

He said a decision about new ground troops was "very urgent," but that there were no immediate plans for military planes to escort relief flights.

# Yeltsin: No islands deal in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin told Japan Sunday he would not cancel his upcoming visit to Tokyo despite "hysterical" remarks by some Japanese leaders over a decades-old territorial dispute.

Mr. Yeltsin, in a satellite broadcast, also cautioned Tokyo not to expect him to hand back any of the islands at the centre of the dispute, seized from Japan by Soviet troops in the final days of World War II.

"This visit will have great significance as the first official one to Japan by a Russian president," Mr. Yeltsin said in a televised broadcast on the public NHK network.

"Some influential people (in Japan) have been making hysterical remarks about the territorial dispute, but I have no plans to cancel the visit as a result," he told a panel of citizens from two northern Japanese cities in a satellite link-up recorded Saturday and aired Sunday.

Controversy has erupted over Mr. Yeltsin's visit to Japan, scheduled from Sept. 13 to 16.

In Moscow Thursday the deputy head of Mr. Yeltsin's security force said he would recommend that the president call off his trip because of possible extremist attacks in Tokyo and Japan's refusal to allow his bodyguards to carry guns.

spokesman assured Moscow that Japan would make doubly sure of its safety measures while police announced they would mobilise 12,000 men to prevent attacks by right-wing groups angry over the islands' dispute.

Mr. Yeltsin delivered a sharp rebuff Wednesday to visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe who had urged the return of all of the islands, known to Russians as the Southern Kuriles and to Japanese as the Northern Territories.

He criticised Tokyo for the pressure it had placed on Moscow to resolve the territorial dispute which Russia inherited with the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

# World expects too much from U.N. — Ghali

MOSCOW (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has said that the world expected too much from the United Nations but did not seem prepared to pay for it.

"There are too many countries now which think only the U.N. can save their problems. We face a crisis of too much confidence," Dr. Ghali told students at Moscow's Elite State Institute of International Relations.

"But at the same time the U.N. is suffering a severe financial crisis as its members fail to pay their contribution to the budget," he added.

Dr. Ghali said cumulative dues to the U.N. amounted to \$1.85 billion. The two leading debtors — the United States and Russia — respectively owe \$555 million and \$138 million.

Dr. Ghali said the U.N.'s role had significantly increased since the cold war ended and that over the last year the organisation had undertaken more peacekeeping missions than in its entire

previous history.

U.N. forces are now deployed in Lebanon, Cambodia, Angola, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. A contingent is soon due to fly to the famine-torn African country of Somalia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, promised Friday to pay the United Nations \$80 million of Moscow's debt in September.

Mr. Yeltsin also told the U.N. chief, on an official visit to Moscow, that Russia would cover its dues by giving another \$80 million to the budget in the first quarter of next year.

Former Soviet republics caught in a series of bloody conflicts have also put in a bid for U.N. peacekeeping efforts over the past months.

But Dr. Ghali said the U.N. would be especially cautious about involving itself in any conflict which he said had been launched by "separatist forces."

"The U.N. should not encourage the creation of micro-states," he said.



Boutros Ghali

Armenia, locked in bitter fighting with neighbouring Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh says it would like U.N. peacekeepers to be sent to the region. Azerbaijan opposes the idea.

In Moldova, Russian-speaking separatists in the self-styled Dnestr Republic have also expressed interest in a U.N. peacekeeping force.

# French polls show 'yes' vote gaining

PARIS (R) — The latest opinion polls ahead of France's Sept. 20 referendum on the Maastricht Treaty show a jump in public support for European union following President Francois Mitterrand's television appearance last Thursday.

A survey of polls issued since the referendum was announced in June suggests support for the "no" vote grew sharply to a peak at the end of August.

The "yes" camp appears to have since staged a comeback after pro-European political leaders ended their summer holidays and began campaigning in earnest.

But the polls are subject to caution because they show up to 40 per cent of voters are still either undecided, unwilling to say how they will vote or unsure whether they will cast ballots.

Some polling institutes include these voters, giving results that say, for example, 34 per cent "yes," 23 per cent "no" and 18 per cent abstention, 25 per cent undecided.

But most simply factor the undecided and abstentionists out of their calculation to give a simple yes-no result, while adding a qualifying footnote.

In addition, polling organisations say their margin of error is plus or minus three per cent.

A dozen more polls are due to appear before next Saturday's midnight deadline. Under French law the publication of polls and commentaries on them is banned during the last seven days before an election.

However, numerous organisations, including political parties, the government, banks and foreign embassies have ordered private polls during that period, the unpublishable results of which are likely to be reflected in stock market swings.

# Belfast police charge 2 soldiers with murder

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland (AP) — Moving with extraordinary swiftness in a case involving the British army, police have charged two soldiers with murdering an 18-year-old Catholic teenager.

Mark Douglas Wright, 19, and James Fisher, 24, both members of the Scots Guards, made a brief court appearance Saturday. A commanding officer in the Scots Guards said they would be held under 24-hour armed guard.

They are charged with murdering 18-year-old Peter McBride. Witnesses said McBride had been stopped by soldiers, and was shot in the back as he ran away.

Meanwhile Saturday, police said 29-year-old Samuel Jeffrey Rice was killed by two masked men who burst into a home in Protestant East Belfast. The Ulster Volunteer Force, an outlawed

guerrilla group based in the Protestant community, claimed responsibility.

The proceedings in Belfast Magistrates Court were interrupted by outbursts from McBride's family.

The dead man's sister, Kelly, wept uncontrollably and his father, Peter, shouted at the Guardsmen, "bastards." Yon scumbag.

Earlier, he said his son was not involved with the Irish Republican Army or other guerrilla groups.

Magistrate Ian Bamford threatened to clear the court.

"I understand it is a very sensitive occasion," Mr. Bamford said, "but I have to give a warning that this is a court of law and I would just like matters to proceed in a proper fashion without interruption."

The army said the area of

Belfast where McBride was killed was the responsibility of the Scots Guards. A month ago, an IRA sniper killed a 24-year-old soldier from the unit in the same area.

Local politicians questioned whether the soldiers violated guidelines on the use of force.

"Unless soldiers believe their lives are in danger, they have no right to open fire, and they certainly cannot shoot a person in the back who is running away, who has been searched, who is known to be unarmed," Belfast City Council member Brian Feehan of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the largest Catholic-based party in Northern Ireland, said Friday.

Joe Austin, a council member representing Sinn Fein, the political party that supports the IRA, said, "There can be no justification for this brutal slaying of a young man whose only crime was his fear of those who killed him."

# Baku: Armenian attack in Karabakh beaten back

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan said Sunday that it had beaten back Armenian forces in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, recapturing villages lost over the weekend.

The Azeri News Agency ASSA-IRADA quoted the Defence Ministry as saying fierce battles were raging for the third consecutive day as Azerbaijan's national army launched a counter-offensive, destroying three Armenian tanks.

Armenia's Karabakh News Agency denied that Azeri forces had regained control of villages in northeast Nagorno-Karabakh.

Elsewhere in the Transcaucasus, Abkhazia's rebel parliamentary leadership accused Georgian forces of violating a ceasefire agreement with helicopter and tank attacks in the Black Sea region.

"The Moscow agreement is being violated by the Georgian side," on Saturday, helicopters and tanks were used in attacks on villages, a spokeswoman for the parliament said by telephone from the rebel stronghold of Gudauta.

The Abkhazian ceasefire, which had been due to come into effect Saturday at 1200 noon (0800

GMT), was reached at talks in Moscow last week between the Russian, Georgian and Abkhazian leaders.

The Georgian News Agency Iprinda said the truce was being generally observed around the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi, although there was fierce fighting further north in which three Georgian National Guards were wounded.

The battles in Nagorno-Karabakh appeared to doom that region's latest ceasefire accord, which was brokered by Kazakhstan and came into force on Sept. 1. Several previous ceasefire agreements have failed to halt the conflict.

At least 2,000 people have been killed in four years of fighting between Azeris and Armenians over the enclave, populated by Armenians but ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923.

In Abkhazia, the ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted a duty officer for Georgia's military forces in the region as saying on Saturday that the Georgian side was observing the ceasefire despite being fired on by Abkhazian forces.

Georgian officials were not available for comment Sunday.

# Castro vows 'no surrender' despite economic crunch

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro said the collapse of Soviet communism had cost Cuba's economy hundreds of millions of dollars, but vowed the island would fight to the death to stay Socialist.

"We're going to fight, we're going to resist, we're never going to give up," Mr. Castro said in a rousing state of the nation speech in the south-central city of Cienfuegos, 260 km (160 miles) southeast of Havana.

During the more than two-hour speech, the 66-year-old Cuban leader focused on how the collapse of preferential trade ties with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union had badly hit Cuba's sugar-exporting, oil-importing economy.

He announced the government was suspending the Caribbean island's most ambitious development project, the construction of its first nuclear power plant.

The bad news was slightly sweetened by the announcement that Cuba had achieved a better than expected sugar harvest this year. It produced seven million tonnes of sugar despite chronic shortages of fuel, equipment, herbicides and fertilisers.

Mr. Castro defiantly repeated the "no-surrender" theme that has been the mainstay of his speeches in the past three years as Cuba began losing its former Communist allies and economic suppliers in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"If the alternative is... to stop being what we are, we revolutionaries prefer death a thousand

times," he said.

"If I believe a lot in socialism and the revolution before, now I believe in them even more," Mr. Castro added.

He described the loss of preferential trade relations with the former Soviet Bloc as a terrible blow to the economy.

It had slashed Cuba's overseas buying power from a level of just over \$8 billion in 1989 to \$2.2 billion in 1992. This included heavy losses in revenue from sugar and nickel exports previously sold at preferential prices and now exported at world market rates.

"What a task we now have to face to achieve with \$2.2 billion what we used to achieve with \$8 billion," he said.

Mr. Castro's speech was the high point of a national celebration marking two battles in the guerrilla campaign which preceded the 1959 Castro-led Cuban Revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista.

The Cuban leader said the island was pushing with an economic survival strategy that gave priority to activities such as national food production and hard-currency sectors like tourism and bio-technology exports.

"We will move forward, we will find solutions to our problems," he said.

He accused the United States of trying to starve Cuba to death by tightening a 30-year-old economic embargo against the island. "The imperialists will never succeed in this," he said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Italian police arrest top mafia boss

ROME (R) — Italian police Sunday arrested Giuseppe Madonia, regarded as the second most important figure in the Sicilian mafia who is suspected of ordering the murder of two top anti-mafia judges, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported. Madonia was arrested in the northern town of Longara thanks to information provided by informers. He is suspected of ordering the murders of anti-mafia judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino in Sicily this year. No further details of the arrest were immediately available. Judge Falcone was killed by a huge bomb on the highway just outside Palermo last May, and Borsellino died in a car-bomb attack in July. An anonymous telephone call after Falcone's murder claimed the killing was "a wedding present for the Madonia family." The attack came on the same day that a member of the clan was married in Palermo's Ucciardone Prison.

### Nicaragua shakes up police

MANAGUA (AP) — President Violeta Chamorro took steps to overhaul the national police, a bastion of Sandinista power opposed by U.S. officials who forced a cutoff in desperately needed aid. But despite pressure from the Bush administration and right-wing Congress members, Mrs. Chamorro named as the corp's new director a Sandinista with a spotty record on human rights. Mrs. Chamorro, who defeated the Sandinistas in 1990 elections, announced the retirement of Police Chief Rene Vivas and 11 other high-ranking Sandinista officers. She also announced the creation of a vice-ministry for citizens' security and appointed a civilian, Ronald Aviles, 46, to the post. Interior Minister Alfredo Mendieta said Mr. Aviles would be the immediate boss of new Police Chief Fernando Caldera, 37, a former national police commander.

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## COLUMN 8

### Prince Charles has knee surgery

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles had surgery to repair a torn cartilage in his left knee. The Buckingham Palace said the prince had been treated at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham and was discharged in the afternoon. Prince Charles does not plan to cancel any public engagements because of the surgery, said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity. The marriage of Prince Charles and his wife, Princess Diana, has been under press scrutiny in recent days over a tape-recorded conversation alleged to involve the princess. The Sun newspaper says the recording captured the princess talking to a male friend. During the call, the woman describes her marriage as "torture," and the man says, "I love you, I love you." James Gilbey, whom the paper identified as the friend, has neither confirmed nor denied the voice was his.

### Superman, 54, killed in brawl with fugitive?

NEW YORK (AP) — Deader than a doornail. Unable to leap anything from 6 feet under. It's a corpse. It's a cadaver. It's Superman. Clark Kent's alter ego is bearded to the superhero hater. "It is going to happen. Superman is going to die in issue No. 75, in a fight with this doomsday guy," a despondent DC comics spokeswoman, Martha Thomas, said. What? The dead man of steel? Certainly for the last Kryptonian? Holy funeral... ooops, wrong comic. But don't close the coffin on Metropolis' main man just yet. Yes, he will die, says DC comics Superman editor Mike Carlin. But who knows what will happen after that? "He's the only Kryptonian left. We don't know what death means to a Kryptonian," Carlin told Advance Comics, an Illinois-based trade publication that broke the story. "Death is final for earthlings, death has been final for the Kryptonians whose planet blew up, but you never know. Like I said, never say never. Never say we wouldn't kill Superman, never say we wouldn't bring him back."

### S. African Anglicans ordain first women

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's Anglican Church, in a victory for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, ordained its first women priests Saturday. David Russell, Bishop of Grahamstown, ordained former professor of political science Nancy Chantson, theology graduate Sue Groves and local deacon Bride Dickson. Archbishop Tutu, the first black head of the Anglican Church in southern Africa and 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, campaigned strongly to have women admitted to the priesthood, but was defeated repeatedly until a synod last month in Swaziland. Arch Bishop Tutu, did not attend Saturday's ceremony, wept when the Swaziland synod approved the admission of women by the required two-thirds majority.

### Campbell grandson to attempt new speed record

LONDON (R) — A grandson of Sir Malcolm Campbell, the British racing car driver who set land and water speed records more than half a century ago, is to make a new attempt at a record in a legendary Blenheim car. The Sunday Telegraph said photographer Don Wales, 31, has been chosen for the feat despite having no racing experience. He said he was picked to drive "purely because of the family name." Wales will attempt to set a wheel-driven world land speed record for an electric car in a revolutionary 250 mph (400 kph) vehicle now undergoing wind tunnel tests in southern England. "We are confident we can do it," Wales said.

### 'Lost' Beatles songs set for release

LONDON (R) — A collection of "lost" songs by the Beatles is set to be released for the first time after lying locked up in recording studio vaults for more than 25 years, the Sunday Times reported. The newspaper said the songs included numbers recorded at the north London Abbey Road Studios of the record company EMI in 1965, when the Liverpool-born group were at the height of their fame. It said the planned release could put the Beatles, who split acrimoniously in 1970, back at the top of the pop charts. Neither EMI nor the group's own record company Apple was available for comment on the report. But the Sunday Times said both companies were cooperating in the release of the recordings as part of a wider Beatles anthology despite tangled legal dealings over rights to material.